MONDAY
May 1, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

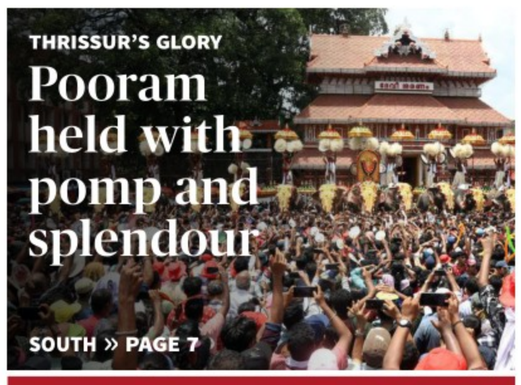
www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.102

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna



THRISSUR'S GLORY

Pooram held with pomp and splendour

SOUTH » PAGE 7

MAY DAY

The erosion of hard-won labour rights

The itch to increase working hours persists

OPINION » PAGE 9

FIRST FOR CHINA

Ding Liren crowned World chess champion

SPORTS » PAGE 16

Modi marks 100th episode of *Mann Ki Baat* with nostalgia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The preservation and promotion of education and culture have been an ancient tradition of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday at the 100th episode of his monthly *Mann Ki Baat* radio broadcast. The country is working towards that tradition through various means such as the National Education Policy and the option of studying in regional languages, he said.

Mr. Modi said that just like the occasion of Vijay Dashami when it was first aired on October 3, 2014, *Mann Ki Baat* had become a festival of goodness and positivity. He said the programme was his way of connecting with the people since he came to Delhi as Prime Minister in 2014.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

11 dead after inhaling toxic gas in Ludhiana

NDRF's air quality sensors detected high levels of hydrogen sulphide, but the source of the gas is yet to be identified; victims were from three families, all hailing from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Eleven people – three of them children from a family – died and four were taken ill on inhaling toxic gas at Giaspura in Ludhiana on Sunday, officials said. Though the gas has been identified as hydrogen sulphide, its source is yet to be identified, they said.

Panic spread as people who came to a grocery in the morning fainted. Soon, the area was cordoned off, and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and National Disaster Management Authority teams and State government officials were deployed. The residents were evacuated, and drones deployed to look for possible victims who could have been lying unconscious.

On alert: A National Disaster Response Force team at the site of the gas leak in the Giaspura area of Ludhiana on Sunday. PTI

"In the air quality sensors used by the NDRF team, high levels of hydrogen sulphide gas have been detected and it is ascertained that this gas might have led to the tragic incident. The team of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana is also working to ensure that there is no further chemical contamination," Deputy Commissioner Surabhi Malik told the media.

A magisterial inquiry has been ordered. The city police have registered an FIR against unknown persons, she said. "Those who died in the incident did not show any symptoms of respiratory problems," Ms. Malik said. She appealed to people not to fall prey to rumour-mongering.

Health Minister Balbir Singh, who reached the spot, said the four persons admitted to the civil hospitals were out of danger.

The State government announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each for the kin of the dead. An amount of ₹50,000 and free medical care will be given to those who became critically ill and are undergoing treatment, he added.

The casualties were members of three families, all of whom hailed from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, though they had been settled in Punjab for over two decades.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

NEARBY

Modi calls JD(S) Cong. B-team

CHANNAPATNA
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday chose Channapatna, the JD(S) bastion where party leader H.D. Kumaraswamy is contesting, to launch a tirade against the regional outfit and described it as the B-team of the Congress. » PAGE 6

Cong. to increase honorarium

BELAGAVI
The Congress will increase the honorarium to ASHA, anganwadi, and midday meal workers by significant amounts, Priyanka Gandhi, Congress leader, said in Khanapur on Sunday. » PAGE 7

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGES 4 & 5

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Foreign portfolio investments in Indian equity markets in April

11,630 in ₹ crore. This came after FPIs infused ₹7,936 crore in equities in March, driven by the bulk investment of GQG Partners in Adani Group. The outlook for FPI flow is expected to remain volatile. PTI

The candidates who got a perfect score in JEE-Main

43 The maximum number of candidates who bagged a score of 100 in the entrance exam JEE-Main were from Telangana. The toppers include 32 from the general category, seven from OBC category, three from EWS and one from SC category. PTI

The seizures made by enforcement agencies in Karnataka

305 In ₹ crore. Seizures were made in the State since the model code of conduct came into force on March 29, according to the Election Commission. The seizures include cash worth ₹110 crore, and freebies worth ₹22 crore. PTI

Migrant bodies wash up on Tunisia's coast in under two weeks

210 Of the bodies found over 10 days, about 70 were recovered from the beaches of eastern Sfax, the neighbouring Kerkennah islands and Mahdia — three areas that are starting points for attempts to migrate to the Italian coast. AP

The death toll of civilians in Sudan rises above 400

411 Gunfire and heavy artillery fire persist in parts of Sudan's capital Khartoum, wounding 2,023 civilians so far, according to Sudan Doctors' Syndicate. In Genena, extreme violence killed 89 people. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Stray dogs and poor waste management

Is there a connection between an increasing urban stray dog population and how waste is generated, collected and managed? Has there also been a rise in urban solid waste? What role can equitable housing and sanitation policies play? How is India managing the stray dog problem?

EXPLAINER

Saumya Kalia

The story so far:
In April, a 65-year-old woman in Srinagar was attacked by street dogs outside her home. A garbage collection point, a mound of food and poultry waste that becomes food for free-roaming dogs in the area, was situated in front of her house. Frequent reports of dogs attacking people to death have made the management of stray dogs an administrative and legal issue.

What do dog bites have to do with poor waste management?
The "carrying capacity" – the ability of a city to support a species – is determined by the availability of food and shelter. Free-ranging dogs, in the absence of these facilities, are scavengers that forage around for food, eventually gravitating towards exposed garbage dumping sites. Dogs thus congregate around urban dumps, such as landfills, due to feeding opportunities.

A population boom in Indian cities has contributed to a staggering rise in solid waste. Indian cities generate more than 1,50,000 metric tonnes of urban solid waste every day. According to a United Nations Environment Program 2021 report, an estimated 931 million tonnes of food available to consumers ended up in households, restaurants, vendors and other food service retailers' bins in 2019. Indian homes on average generated 50 kg of food waste per person, the report said. This waste often serves as a source of food for hunger-stricken, free-roaming dogs that move towards densely-populated areas in cities, such as urban slums which are usually located next to garbage dumping sites and landfills.

Urban dogs are believed to have a distinct set of traits as compared to rural dogs, as they have "learnt to develop survival techniques in fast-paced, often hostile motorised urban environments", a 2014 study argues. It also says "...dogs do not usually pose a threat to human well-being, and proper management of refuse and a tolerant, if not friendly attitude towards dogs can ensure their peaceful co-existence with us."

Solution needed: Stray dogs eating from the garbage in a polluted river in New Delhi in 2020. FILE PHOTO

What role does urbanisation play?
Cities have witnessed a sharp increase in the stray dog population, which as per the official 2019 livestock census stood at 1.5 crore. However, independent estimates peg the number to be around 6.2 crore. The number of dog bites has simultaneously doubled between 2012 and 2020. India also shoulders the highest rabies burden in the world, accounting for a third of global deaths caused due to the disease. In 2015, a study conducted in 10 Indian metro cities found a strong link between human population, the amount of municipal and food waste generated, and the number of stray dogs in the cities. It argued, "in effect, the present mode of urbanisation and paradigm of development innately promotes urban sprawls, slums, disparity... With the development of cities, managing solid waste has become a daunting challenge," and the "unconfined and unmanaged leftovers" end up aiding the proliferation of stray dogs.

While there is no evidence to show that a rising population and municipal waste directly led to an increase in dog bites, experts agree there may be a correlation between urbanisation and solid waste production, made visible due to the mismanagement of waste disposal. Tepid animal birth control programmes and insufficient rescue centres, in conjunction with poor waste management, result in a proliferation of street animals in India.

Additionally, most landfills and dumping sites are located on the peripheries of cities, next to slums and settlement colonies. Thus, the disproportionate burden of dog bites may also fall on people in urban slums. In 2021, 300 people living in Pune's Shivneri Nagar slum complained of stray dog bites in the area, as per reports. In 2020, 17 people, including young children, who lived in Ramabai Nagar, a slum spread over an area of 120 acres in Ghatkopar East, were bitten by stray dogs.

A study published in 2016 found that the prevalence of dog bites was higher in urban slums – usually located in close proximity to dumping sites – than rural slums. The proximity of residential areas to dumping sites and the rise in dog attacks speak to "core issues of unplanned and unregulated urban development, the lack of serviced affordable urban housing for all, lack of safe livelihood options and improper solid waste management", researchers at the World Resource Institute wrote in a blog.

How has India managed the problem?
India's response to the "stray dog menace" has relied upon the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, through which municipal bodies trap, sterilise and release dogs to slow down the dog population. The second anchor was rabies control measures, including vaccination drives. But implementation suffers from low awareness around the health implications of dog bites, irregular supply of vaccines, delay in seeking treatments, and a lack of national policy, experts say.

THE GIST

- A population boom in Indian cities has contributed to a staggering rise in solid waste. Indian cities generate more than 1,50,000 metric tonnes of urban solid waste every day.
- Cities have also witnessed a sharp increase in the stray dog population, which as per the official 2019 livestock census stood at 1.5 crore. However, independent estimates peg the number to be around 6.2 crore. The number of dog bites has simultaneously doubled between 2012 and 2020.
- While there is no evidence to show that a rising population and municipal waste directly led to an increase in dog bites, experts agree there may be a correlation between urbanisation and solid waste production, made visible due to the mismanagement of waste disposal.

The protests against the refinery project in Maharashtra

What is the Ratnagiri refinery and petrochemicals project? Is it going to harm the coastal Konkan region?

Abhinay Deshpande

The story so far:
On April 25, the Maharashtra government started conducting soil testing at Rajapur tehsil's Barsu village in the coastal Ratnagiri district to know if the site was suitable for the proposed multi-billion dollar Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited project which is touted as the world's largest single location refinery complex. As of April 2022, India's oil refining capacity stood at 251.2 million metric tonnes per annum, making it the second-largest refiner in Asia and the fourth largest in the world.

What is the Barsu refinery project?
The project, which is expected to have a capacity of 60 million tonnes per annum, is a joint venture between Saudi Aramco, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. The project was initially mooted in 2014 and is estimated to cost around rupees three lakh crore. Besides fuel, the project also proposes to develop various downstream petrochemicals to meet India's fast-growing petrochemical demand. Initially, the project was supposed to come up at Nanar, about 20 kilometres from Barsu. However, due to strong opposition from the locals, environmental activists and the Shiv Sena, the project was denotified in 2019.

How have the villagers reacted?
Hundreds of residents from Barsu-Solgaon and neighbouring villages are protesting the government's decision as they are concerned about the potential impact on the environment and the livelihoods of local communities. The project site is in a region that is ecologically sensitive, with several species of flora and fauna endemic to the area. The Konkan region has large mango orchids as well as jack fruit and cashew plantations. The villagers also expressed concern about the potential health hazards posed by the refinery and petrochemical unit, which is expected to emit a large amount of pollutants. According to locals, Konkan already suffers from air pollution due to the presence of coal-fired power plants. Many farmers expressed concern that they would lose their source of livelihood if their land is acquired for the project.

Locals say that the project should be shifted to more arid zones in the State like Marathwada and Vidarbha.

What is the State govt.'s stand?
In November last year, the Shinde-Fadnavis government started issuing land acquisition notices to residents of six villages to acquire the initial 2,220 acres of land. It has been a strong supporter of the project and argued that it would help reduce India's dependence on crude oil imports and provide a boost to the economy, apart from generating employment for over one lakh people, both direct and indirect. While the BJP has been tight-lipped about the recent developments at Barsu, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the project would not be implemented without the local people's consent. "We are a people's government...we will not proceed without the local people's consent," he said. According to Mr. Shinde, the Ratnagiri project is a green refinery and there will not be any pollution.

Why is the BJP pushing the project?
Firstly, the BJP leaders believe that the project would help them make inroads in the Shiv Sena and Shiv Sena (UBT) dominated Konkan region. Secondly, the party is touting the project as a significant step towards making India self-sufficient in the petrochemical sector, reducing the country's dependence on imports and further boosting the local economy. Further, Saudi Aramco has been expressing concern about the delay in the project due to the unavailability of land which has become a cause of concern for both the Centre and State governments.

THE GIST

- On April 25, the Maharashtra government started conducting soil testing at Rajapur tehsil's Barsu village in the coastal Ratnagiri district to know if the site was suitable for the proposed multi-billion dollar Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited project.
- The project proposes to develop various downstream petrochemicals to meet India's fast-growing petrochemical demand.
- Hundreds of residents are protesting the government's decision as they are concerned about the potential impact on the environment and the livelihoods of local communities.

Murder on university campus: One student arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have cracked the murder of a student on the premises of Reva University and arrested a student of the same university.

Meanwhile, police are on the lookout for at least three more students, including the one who stabbed the deceased. The arrested student has been identified as Bharatesh, 20, studying in second-year civil engineering, and a resident of Kadugodi.

On Friday night, a bitter fight broke out between two groups of students while dancing during the annual college fest, and Bhaskar Jetty, 22, was stabbed to death, and his classmate Sharath, was assaulted and sustained a head injuries.

Investigations have now revealed that the two groups of students picked up a quarrel over a trivial issue when they ran into each other during dancing around 4 p.m. Though they were separated by other students, the conflict was not resolved.

They fought again around 6:30 p.m. and again at around 9:30 p.m. when Bhaskar Jetty was stabbed, and Sharath was assaulted. Though it was said that Sharath was assaulted on the head with an iron rod, police said he was probably injured in the scuffle, and they found no evidence of an iron rod being used.

Bharatesh, now arrested, was like a leader of the gang of the accused students, and he was the one who picked up the fight initially. However, he was not the one who stabbed Bhaskar Jetty.

"We have identified the assailant, and he is yet to be arrested. He rarely came to college and was not allowed to take the examinations due to a shortage of attendance. He had come only because of the college fest," a senior police official said.

Operation Kaveri: 125 from State reach city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A flight carrying 229 stranded Indian nationals in Sudan arrived in Bengaluru from Jeddah on Sunday.

This batch of evacuees arrived in the city a day after 365 people returned from Sudan to Delhi. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took to Twitter and said, "#OperationKaveri One more flight brings back 229 passengers to Bengaluru."

The Ministry of External Affairs launched Operation Kaveri on April 24 to safely evacuate Indian citizens stranded in conflict zones in Sudan. IAF transport aircraft and Indian Navy ships are placed in strategic locations from where the stranded Indians are safely shifted to Jeddah and flown to India. The flight bringing 229 evacuees from Sudan landed in Bengaluru airport at 11:00 a.m., according to officials. Of the 229, 125 hailed from Karnataka. Manoj Rajan, Commissioner for Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) said, "Three facilitation counters have been opened in New Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai airports, manned by senior officers of State government. The facilitation counters are arranging flight tickets for the Operation Kaveri evacuees hailing from Karnataka for their onward journey to the State." he said.

RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 10

Infrastructure woes cry out for resolution in Dasarahalli constituency

President of the Peenya Industries Association says they have been demanding a township for the industry along the lines of ELCITA in Electronics City

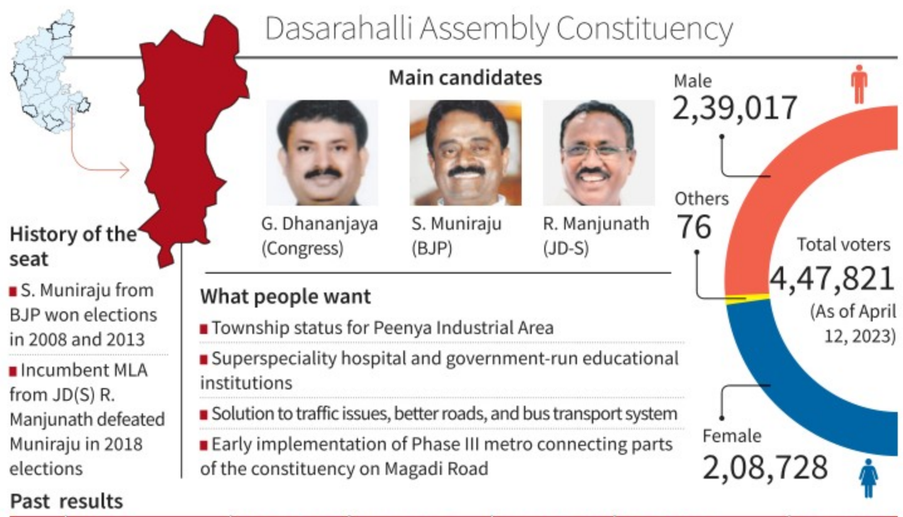
KEY CONSTITUENCY

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

A majority of the Peenya Industrial Area, touted as one of the largest industrial areas, falls within the limits of the Dasarahalli Assembly constituency. A large number of the voters in the constituency are those who have migrated from rural areas, including northern parts of the State, in search of jobs.

After the formation of the constituency in 2008, BJP's candidate S. Muniraju was elected from the constituency in 2008 and 2013. In the previous elections (2018), R. Manjunath from JD(S) defeated him with a margin of over 10,000 votes.

Mr. Muniraju says that an "internal deal" between JD(S) and Congress had worked against him in the previous elections. In the forthcoming elections, incumbent MLA Manjunath is again fighting the election as a JD (S) candidate, and the Congress party has fielded G. Dhananjaya. Mr Kirthan Kumar Manjappa is contesting from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	R. Manjunath (JD-S)	94,044 43.48%	S. Muniraju (BJP)	83,369 38.55%	P.N. Krishnamurthy (Congress)	31,711 14.66%
2013	S. Muniraju (BJP)	57,562 30.1%	B.L. Shankar (Congress)	46,734 24.44%	Andanappa B. (JD-S)	43,049 22.51%

Township for industry

Owners of the small-scale industries in Peenya and residents of the constituency say that their woes continue to remain unaddressed.

Manjunath H., president of Peenya Industries Association, said, "We have been demanding a township for the industry along the lines of ELCITA in Electronics City. There are thousands of small-scale industries providing employment to 12 lakh people. Annually, these units pay ₹5,000 to ₹6,000 crore to the governments in taxes. But owners of the industrial units continue to struggle for good roads, electricity and water supply."

Traffic problems

Ganesh Kumar, a resident of Hegganahalli, said, "Over the years, the traffic congestion has increased in the area. Motorists using Magadi Road, Outer Ring Road and Tumkur Road are facing problems daily. There are no good feeder services to connect to the metro station located on Tumakuru Road. Providing an affordable bus transport system will help lakhs of people working in the area."

Motorists using Tumakuru Road continue to face traffic snarls as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) continues to prohibit entry of heavy vehicles on the Peenya flyover. Residents of the area are also demanding government-run schools, super-speciality hospitals and development of parks.

Blame game

BJP candidate Muniraju blames the inaction of the incumbent MLA for tardy development work in the constituency.

"Voters of the constituency have realized that the incumbent MLA did not do anything for their welfare. He has been misleading people about the development works. An RTI reply from the State government states that over ₹1,123 crore was allocated for the constituency over the past five years, but we cannot see visible changes in the constituency," he said, adding that Congress candidate will be his nearest contender this time and not JD(S). He further said after the outbreak of the pandemic, hundreds of voters had left the constituency and settled in their villages.

Congress candidate G. Dhananjaya said, "People of the constituency are fed up with both JD(S) and BJP candidates. They need a fresh face and an educated candidate as their MLA. A majority of voters constitute the working class, and there is a need to improve the public healthcare and education system, which I have promised to do. The Congress has already provided assurance of providing ₹2,000 to women, 200 units of free power, and free bus travel for women and others. All these schemes will benefit people in the constituency in a big way."

When contacted, R. Manjunath dismissed the allegations made by his opponents.

"After I became the MLA, hurdles were put up against executing development works. People know what I have done, and they will respond. Out of the 110 villages that were added to BBMP limits, five are located in the Dasarahalli constituency. I have worked hard to develop these villages. The constituency has seen road infrastructure, development of parks and others during my tenure."

A total of 15 are in the fray, interestingly, there are three more candidates named Manjunath who are fighting elections from the constituency as independents.

From milk packets to bus tickets: Voter awareness slogans galore in Kolar

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Wherever you go in Kolar, it's hard to miss the message asking you to vote. It's everywhere – from all Nandini Dairy products, KSRTC bus tickets, garbage trucks, MGNREGA job cards to hospital vouchers.

Kolar District Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Committee led by Y.S. Ukesh Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Kolar Zilla Panchayat, has taken innovative measures to create voter awareness this election season.

Kolar usually sees a relatively high voter turnout – 81% in 2018 Assembly polls – and this time, the SVEEP committee aims to ensure the turnout crosses 85%.

District SVEEP Committee has tied up with Kolar District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited (Komul), and over 55,000 families using Nandini products every day are getting packets of milk, curd, ghee with messages like 'My vote is my future' 'I will vote on May 10', 'Nothing like voting, I vote for sure'.

Nandini has taken up the 'Voting Friendly Nandini', with a tagline 'Nandini's concern in the festival of Democracy.' 2,48,795 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Job cards also have similar messages.

A voter awareness poster brought out by the Kolar District SVEEP Committee.
RAVICHANDRAN

Letters written

Electoral Literacy Clubs have been constituted in every school and college of the district and all the 2,29,565 students have now written letters to their parents exhorting them to use their right and vote in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kumar has personally written to all the soldiers hailing from the district and posted across the country, appealing them to cast their vote through postal ballot.

Door-to-door campaign

In Srinivaspur town which saw a low voter turnout, the committee has taken up a door-to-door campaign giving a rose to people asking them to cast their vote. "Amidst constraints over financial resources, we have taken several innovative measures to improve voter turnout. We have targeted first-time voters, and we have achieved 100% enrollment of sex workers, transgenders, persons with disabilities and nomads. We aim to achieve 85% turnout this year," said Mr. Kumar.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (May 1, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- How are stray dog bites related to poor waste management? **bit.ly/straydogswaste**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

'It is all about the local issues, and not national politics or leaders'

When we fought the 2013 elections in Delhi, no one was a prominent face. Everyone was fresh emerging out of the 'India Against Corruption' movement. That's how we are fighting in Karnataka as well, says State working president of AAP

INTERVIEW

Mohan Dasari

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

Despite setbacks in its stronghold, Delhi and an unsuccessful debut campaign in the last Karnataka elections, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has hit the campaign trail again this election season.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mohan Dasari, State working president and C.V. Raman Nagar candidate, speaks about what the party's chances are, and why they are focussing on local issues.

Mohan Dasari

AAP has not had a successful outing in the last elections in Karnataka. What are you expecting this time?

In 2018, when we fought the first elections, we hardly fought from 30 seats. Also, in Delhi, that was the first government we had. We didn't have much of the contributions to share, whether it is the education and healthcare revolution. This election, we have a proven model to share. The other thing is the kind of work we have done over the years in C.V. Raman Nagar. Even though we got a smaller number of votes last time, we did not sit at home.

In Karnataka, you have no prominent faces. Is that going to hurt your chances?

When we fought the 2013 elections in Delhi, no one was a prominent face. Everyone was a fresh face emerging out of the "India Against Corruption" movement. That's how we are fighting in Karnataka as well. It's all about the local issues. In Bengaluru, people are struggling for the last 10-15 years.

It's all about the local issues, not national politics or leaders. Wherever we are going, we talk about good government schools, area clinics.

More than one lakh people in lower income class areas where they still lack basic necessities. We are talking about basic necessities – water connection, pothole free roads, good government schools and hospitals and we are able to connect with the people.

Has BBMP polls not being held affected the AAP's chances?

Whether it is BBMP elections or State elections, we talk about Bengaluru issues.

I agree; if BBMP elections had happened, the chances of more seats would have been brighter. But it is unfortunate and unconstitutional that by September, we complete eight years since the last BBMP elections were held. People are struggling for good roads and garbage management. A person cannot go to the MLA's house for these issues. MLAs' main responsibility is policy-making, not to fix roads or do civic roads; that's the corporator's job. One layer of administration has been removed for three years. Even now, we are hopeful of forming the council in the BBMP when elections are held.

Bengaluru has by and large failed to throw up any surprises in Assembly elections, which is a challenge for new parties. Will it change now?

In Bengaluru, there is an illegal alliance that is not seen anywhere else - BJP allies with the Congress and vice versa.

Take the examples of BTM Layout, Padmanabhanagar, Jayanagar; the other party keeps dummy candidates. Even in C.V. Raman Nagar. Every election, Congress has changed its candidate here. For the next five years, no one works over here. This time, people are aware of this alliance. AAP has no baggage in Bengaluru and has a clean image, and we want to work for the people. Bengaluru is cosmopolitan, like mini-India. They know what we have done in Delhi.

But the party has had setbacks Delhi. Will that have an impact here?

Every State is a new state for us. The issues in the State matter. As for the current situation in Delhi, people know why they (AAP leaders) are behind the bars. These are false cases to stop AAP's expansion.

Realistically speaking, what are your chances in Karnataka?

We will definitely represent people in Karnataka in Vidhana Soudha. How many seats, it depends on the people.

In Bengaluru and north Karnataka, we have a very good chance of winning some seats. For us, the BBMP elections are also very important, where we have a very good chance. We are the principal challengers to the BJP and Congress.

AAP roadshow

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann with AAP candidate from Pulakeshinagar constituency Suresh Rathod during a roadshow in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

Police Commissioner reviews security in D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy took out a march in D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli, which are in the Pulikeshinagar Assembly constituency, reviewing security arrangements. He was accompanied by Additional Commissioner (East) M. Chandra Sekhar and DCP (East) Bheemashankar Guled.

"The security deployment in the area is very good, and we will brook no indiscipline," Mr. Reddy said.

It may be recalled that violence broke out in the area on the intervening night of August 11 and 12, 2020, over a defamatory post.

Cases of violence

The city police opened fire to control the mob, and three people were killed in police action. The investigation into the case was handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which arrested several people, including members of the Popular Front of India, now proscribed, and the Social Democratic Party of India, under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Highly sensitive

Several booths in D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli have been categorised as sensitive and highly sensitive, as the areas are communally sensitive, especially given that the D.J. Halli violence of 2020 is a major poll issue in the ongoing elections.

CACHE

REUTERS

How hate speech and conspiracies are thriving on Elon Musk's Twitter

There are fears that Twitter no longer has the resources or the staff it needs to adequately combat hateful conduct, spam, criminal content and misinformation in not just English but other global languages

Sahana Venugopal

Recently, there have been many spelling mistakes in the tweets of Twitter users debating controversial subjects like religion, terrorism, crime, and yes, even Indian history. These are not errors made in the heat of the moment, but careful distortions meant to keep the tweet from being flagged or deleted for hateful content. For example, a tweet posted in November 2022 that singled out people with Muslim names from a series of random crime news reports did not refer to the perpetrators as "Muslims" but instead used the phrase "Ola ke Bande" (*Ola's group/Ola's gang*). The word "Ola," which refers to the Indian ride-hailing service, was used in place of "Allah." The tweet was posted after CEO Elon Musk's $44 billion takeover of Twitter. The tweet author currently has close to 7,00,000 followers.

Reporting this tweet for targeting a group of people based on their religion is now more difficult than reporting a hateful tweet simply referring to "Muslims," as the Twitter moderator viewing the complaint would have to be familiar with not only the Hindi phrase being used, but also the double meaning of "Ola." Moreover, if the moderation process is automated, the machine would most likely see a user verbally abusing a taxi service, which does not constitute hateful conduct.

Distortions of hate

Some of the common hate speech distortions are – 'beeph eaters': a derogatory term used to refer to Muslims, by distorting the word 'beef'; 'muzlim': a distortion of the word 'Muslim'; 'Is!am': a distortion of 'Islam,' which fools Twitter's search filter by bringing up results for "isam" or "is am"; 'peaceful/peacefuls': a word used in place of 'Muslim,' to avoid being flagged for hate speech; and 'rice bag': a derogatory phrase referring to India's religious minorities, referencing the bigoted stereotype that they left Hinduism in exchange for a "rice bag" or economic benefits.

A lack of moderation

There are fears that Twitter no longer has the resources or the staff it needs to adequately combat hateful conduct, spam, criminal content on the site, and misinformation in not just English but global languages. In an interview with a *BBC* journalist on April 12, Mr. Musk shared that there were around 1,500 employees still at Twitter, down from slightly under 8,000. The months after his takeover saw employees being fired in multiple rounds, as well as mass resignations. Fired employees included those involved in content moderation worldwide, reported *Bloomberg*.

The Center for Countering Digital Hate (NGO) said on February 9 that "Elon Musk has reinstated tens of thousands of accounts, including neo-Nazis, white supremacists, misogynists and spreaders of dangerous conspiracy theories." It added that Twitter could rake in up to $19 million a year from advertising on just ten such reinstated accounts, which included figures such as Andrew Tate and Robert Malone. Mr. Musk denied that hate speech was rising on Twitter and claimed that the *BBC* journalist was lying to suggest otherwise.

However, it is a mistake to assume that content moderation on Twitter before Mr. Musk's takeover was effective. Former CEO Jack Dorsey has admitted to making "mistakes." Yet, the key difference now is that Twitter does not even pretend to let users hold it accountable, as its press@twitter.com email ID automatically responds to all media queries and emails with a graphic emoji.

Furthermore, on April 17, the Twitter Safety team announced its new approach to content moderation, called "Freedom of Speech, Not Reach." This policy would leave up select tweets that violate Twitter's Hateful Conduct Policy but filter their visibility by adding a label flagging them as potential violations. Ads will also not be placed near them. Twitter's Hateful Conduct policy says that users cannot "directly attack" others based on "race, ethnicity, national origin, caste, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or serious disease." However, the new "freedom of speech, not reach" policy would mean that some tweets violating these principles will be allowed to remain on Twitter.

Hate speech on other platforms

The Hindu reached out to Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp-owner Meta to learn the rival social media company's approach to hate speech.

In an emailed statement, a Meta spokesperson said the company takes a zero-tolerance approach to hate speech on Facebook and Instagram, and had pulled down such content as soon as they were made aware of it. "Since 2016, we have invested more than $16 billion in teams and technologies to keep hate speech, and other forms of harmful content off the platform and to enhance safety and security of users on our apps. As a result of our efforts, we've reduced the prevalence of hate speech on our platforms down to .02% which means for every 10,000 pieces of content, two were violating," said the spokesperson. Meta explained it used artificial intelligence (AI) to identify images or text identical to hate speech content it had already removed. This technology helps it accurately detect hate speech even when the meaning is not obvious or the content is changed to avoid detection, the company said.

Additionally, Meta said it had human content reviewers in 20 Indian languages including Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Urdu, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese, Telugu, Oriya, Sindhi, Mizo, Marwari, Chhattisgarhi, Tulu, Maithili/Bhojpuri, Konkani, and Meitei. The social media company also claimed it took down around 16 million pieces of content from Facebook and Instagram in the last quarter of 2022.

However, as Meta confirmed yet another round of layoffs in late April that impacted its technical employees, reduced staff could translate to less effective content moderation on Facebook and Instagram. Tech outlet *The Verge* further reported that most of Meta's misinformation engineering team was fired as part of April's cuts. Meta is due to fire more workers in late May and aims to reduce its workforce by around 10,000 people in 2023.

The Hindu also reached out to Mastodon and Reddit to learn their approaches to content moderation but did not receive a response.

As Twitter's roughly 1,500 employees put in the hours to take the social media company forward, hateful content is finding new ways to evolve on the platform.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As *Ponniyin Selvan -2*, the second part of Maniratnam's magnum opus hogs screens in theatres, a look at some trivia related to the original novel by Kalki R. Krishnamurthy

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

Two personalities acquired the movie rights for *Ponniyin Selvan*, but things did not fructify and it was finally left to Maniratnam. Who were the two famous personalities who attempted to make a movie of the book?

QUESTION 2

There is much debate about the sources Kalki used to craft his historical fiction on the assassination of the crown Prince of the Chola Empire. It is believed he relied on historical accounts and travelled to certain locations that figure in the novel. He made three trips to a particular country, to study the environs there, we are told. Which country did Kalki travel to, to research for *Ponniyin Selvan*?

QUESTION 3

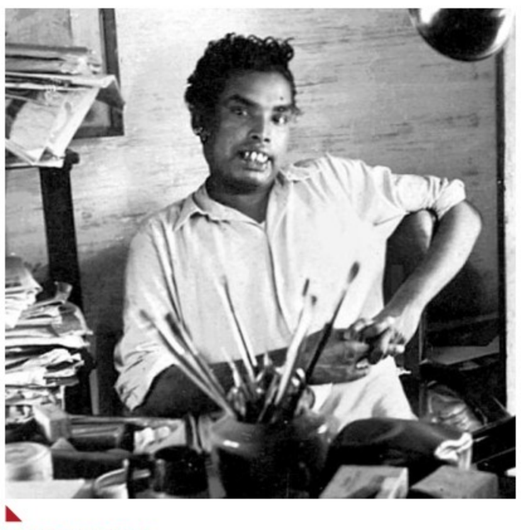
The character of Azhwarkadiyan Nambi is representative of a particular undercurrent that sometimes disrupted harmony in the Tamil Nadu of yore. Some of Nambi's outbursts in the novel stand testimony to this conflict. Name the conflict.

QUESTION 4

"There was constant war between A and B. They fought using verbal arrows and sharp, spear-like looks. Sparks flew in that struggle as swords clashed and sharpened lances attacked each other." Who were A and B, their rivalry notorious in the book?

QUESTION 5

In 1998, the Tamil Nadu government, then headed by DMK's M. Karunanidhi did something that meant much for Kalki's works, including *Ponniyin Selvan*. What was this act, and what did it result in?



Visual question:
The centenary of this person involved in the *Ponniyin Selvan* serialisation is coming up in 2024. This individual enhanced the novel's charm. Name him.

Questions and Answers of the April 28 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This word comes from a Greek word which means a measure of length equalling the length of 600 human feet. **Ans: Stadium and Stadion.**
2. This stadium in the U.S. has a permanent seating capacity of 2,35,000. **Ans: The Indianapolis Motor Speedway**
3. This county side plays its home games at the 'Mecca of Cricket' Lord's. **Ans: Middlesex**
4. The San Siro is the home of these two football clubs. **Ans: A.C. Milan and Inter Milan. The name of the stadium is Stadio Giuseppe Meazza**
5. Kaseya Center and Toyota Center are the stadiums of these NBA champions. **Ans: Miami Heat and Houston Rockets**
6. This stadium in India bears the name of an American employee of an Indian MNC. **Ans: Keenan Stadium in Jamshedpur**
Visual: Outside this famous playing arena, one can one see this statue. **Ans: Sydney Cricket Ground; Richie Benaud**
Early Bird: Manoj Vellakkat

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

These peddlers are selling fake trinkets

So, you are barking up the wrong tree if you think you will get anything authentic from here

S. Upendran

What is the difference between 'pedal' and 'peddle'? (N. Ashok, Vellore)

The two words are pronounced the same way, and they come from 'ped' meaning 'foot'. This explains why humans are often referred to as 'bipeds'; meaning, animals which walk on two legs. The word 'pedal' can be used both as a noun and a verb; it is usually an object made of rubber or metal on which you place your foot. For example, we talk about 'bicycle pedals'; in a car, we have clutch and brake pedals. In the beginning, this word was used to refer to the foot pedal in musical instruments like the organ and the piano.

Sunitha is having a tough time reaching the brake pedal.

The verb 'peddle' comes from the noun 'peddler'. A 'peddler' is someone who goes from one place to another to sell his wares – vegetables, fruit, trinkets, etc. He is called a 'peddler' because he walks to different locations in order to sell his goods. Therefore, when a person 'peddles' something, he walks to different locations trying to sell things to people.

The teenagers were arrested for peddling drugs.

What is the origin of 'barking up the wrong tree'? (L. Shalini, Hyderabad)

When you tell someone that he is barking up the wrong tree, you are suggesting that he is on the wrong track – therefore, he is unlikely to succeed in whatever it is he has set out to do. The individual needs to come up with a different approach to get the results he wants.

If you think the teacher will postpone, you're barking up the wrong tree.

This American idiom comes from the world of hunting – more specifically, raccoon hunting. These animals were sought after for both their meat and their fur. Since the hunt for these animals took place at night, dogs were made use of to track the animals. When a raccoon was pursued by dogs, it invariably climbed a tree and hid among the leaves. It made its escape by jumping from one tree to another. The dogs, not realising that their prey had moved on, continued to stand under the tree that the raccoon had climbed and kept barking – not realising that they were barking up the wrong tree!

How is word 'doozy' pronounced? (K. Ram Prasad, Bengaluru)

The 'oo' sounds like the 'oo' in 'pool', 'fool' and 'cool', and the final 'zy' sounds like the 'zy' in 'crazy', 'hazy' and 'lazy'. This rather informal word is pronounced 'DUU-zy' with the stress on the first syllable. When you say that something is a 'doozy', you are suggesting that it is something truly extraordinary. The word can be used with good and bad things.

Twenty cars were involved in a doozy of an accident this morning.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Retort:
a quick reply to a question or remark (especially a witty or critical one)

Synonyms: replication, return, counter, riposte, comeback, rejoinder

Usage: *That was a clever retort by the student.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/retortpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɹɪˈtɔːt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Massive traffic congestion on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway; vehicles line up for over a km

Movement of vehicles affected at Kaniminike toll plaza as well as NICE Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Traffic movement at the entrance of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway was severely affected on Sunday morning as vehicles lined up at the toll booth in Kaniminike. While the normal Sunday crowd wanted to escape the restrictions imposed on movement of traffic between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., BJP followers headed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rally at Channapatna in Ramanagara district added to the traffic.

A huge traffic jam at the Kaniminike toll plaza on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Vehicles lined up for over a kilometre and took at least half an hour to cross the toll plaza. Y. Nagaraj, who was headed to Channapatna, waited for 45 minutes to just cross the toll booth. "What is the point in wasting so much time to clear the toll and enter a fast expressway? I had not seen such a traffic in a long time," he said.

There were others stuck near the booth for close to an hour. "Movement became a problem as some tags were not working or the scanner could not scan the tag. We are just tired of waiting here," said a person headed to Mysuru, who wished to remain anonymous.

It was not just at the toll booth on the expressway, traffic movement was also affected on NICE road. Motorists had to endure a long wait to exit the NICE road to enter the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway.

Thulasidas, Additional Commissioner, Commercial Tax, who left the city for Mysuru, had to wait for over one hour at the toll booth on the expressway. He said that, realising that he won't be able to reach Mysuru on time, he decided to return. However, he had to pay the toll and then took a U-turn to return to the city.

Another commuter, who had to similarly take a U-turn after paying the toll, said he took objection to the authorities collecting toll on the expressway when authorities had anyway blocked traffic for most parts of the day on Sunday.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, MAY. 01		
RISE	05:59	SET 18:34
RISE	15:04	SET 02:59
TUESDAY, MAY. 02		
RISE	05:59	SET 18:35
RISE	15:51	SET 03:35
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 03		
RISE	05:58	SET 18:35
RISE	16:38	SET 04:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	32	23

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Pourakarmikas demand fully paid leave on May Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BBMP Pourakarmika Sangha has demanded a fully paid one-day leave on May 1, Monday, on the occasion of May Day.

The Sangha, in a statement released on Sunday, said pourakarmikas and drivers, cleaners working in the solid waste management sector work 365 days a year, without a single day's leave and it was fitting that they get a day's leave at least on May Day.

CASAGRAND INVITES PROPERTIES FOR OUTRIGHT PURCHASE & JOINT VENTURE

» 2 - 50 ACRES IN & AROUND BENGALURU CITY

CASAGRAND CREDENTIALS
- 18 years of excellence in the industry
- 140+ projects
- 36 million sft. of living spaces developed
- 27,000+ happy customers
- Presence in Chennai, Bengaluru & Coimbatore

WHY CASAGRAND?
- Transparent transactions
- The best payout in the industry
- Highest realisation given to owners for their property
- Quick turn around time

+91 72599 55555
blrland@casagrand.co.in

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

Congress
Where 85% of money sent for our citizens, looted by corrupt politicians & their middlemen

Under PM Narendra Modi
100% of money meant for citizens reaches them directly in their bank accounts
BJP Double Engine Sarkara

2 In 2022-23, over ₹ 2.73 Lakh Crores of corruption and leakage stopped due to DBT

3 In 2021-22, over ₹11,925 Crores were disbursed through DBT to 1.80 Crore Beneficiaries across Karnataka

4 PM-KISAN Karnataka has put ₹15,000 Crores directly into the accounts of 54 Lakh farmers in Karnataka, without the involvement of middlemen

5 Under the Nekara Sammana Yojane, ₹75 Crores of financial assistance has been directly transferred to the accounts of 1.5 Lakh Nekaras in the state

5 ₹ 2,500 crores was directly transferred as ₹5 per litre milk incentive to dairy farmers in the state.

ಡಬಲ್ ಎಂಜಿನ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಸಾಕಾರ
ಈ ಬಾರಿಯ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಬಹುಮತದ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

#ಬಿಜೆಪಿಯೇ ಭರವಸೆ

ಕಮಲದ ಬಟನ್ ಒತ್ತಿ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಗೆಲ್ಲಿಸಿ

Issued by: Bharatiya Janata Party Karnataka

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

EDUCATIONPLUS

A balance of work and play

Making extracurricular activities compulsory in higher education institutes will help students expand their mental horizons and also develop skills beyond the course

Manas Agarwal

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Apart from academic courses, extracurricular activities (ECA) are an additional window of learning and inculcating life skills. Unfortunately, colleges do not seem to focus as much as they do on academics.

Imagine if Lata Mangeshkar or Sachin Tendulkar had been pushed towards academics rather than following their passion, who would have known about them? This is why it is important to make ECA compulsory. It will help impart real education to students instead of promoting rote learning.

Students should be asked to pursue at least one activity throughout their time in college. Currently, these are optional. In the case of activities such as photography, filmmaking or animation, music, fine arts and dance, the college clubs may require a degree of prior training. But there are many others that help students expand their mental horizons.

Infrastructure and follow-up

Colleges also need to ensure that they have the required infrastructure. For example, music societies need a sophisticated sound system, a variety of instruments, a separate music room and auditorium, and most importantly, a trained teacher who will get involved in the society's activities. Therefore, the University Grants Commission (UGC) should devolve extra funds to colleges keeping in mind the interests of ECA societies to enhance the standard of university education.

Further, there should be a regular follow-up of the various activities, especially of finances and events. Getting an expert teacher who can act as a bridge connecting the administration and the students to streamline the flow of information, resources and expertise will also help reduce the burden on regular professors who are usually assigned the responsibility of these cells.

Developing skills

Take the organisation of a Model United Nations conference. The organising committee of students need to invite a chief guest, settle intra-society issues with their friends (now their teammates), arrange logistics, scout markets for best prices and muster participation from colleges and schools. All this inculcates in them a sense of responsibility and develops problem-solving, critical thinking, and decision-making abilities, enhances skills , teaches them time and stress management, and also makes them digitally savvy.

In my experience, college cultural events have always been the site of challenges, both personal and professional. Handling the finances of such events also involves dealing with people and their biases and navigating the politics of dress codes, brands and more. Being involved in such events helps showcase the student's talents both as performer and organiser.

Another benefit is building a social network. Students come into contact with a variety of people, both peers and others. This helps them form and maintain connections that will be very helpful later in life.

Then, there's also the critical aspect of building skills such as creative thinking and communication. Students who are also organisers have to strategise and plan, take people along, do multiple things simultaneously, and work with others.

Hence, the experience of organising and participating in extracurricular activities provides them top-quality exposure and learning, which will enable them to deal with life more successfully in future.

The writer is currently doing his Master's in Political Science in DU

More articles to read?
For more articles, columns and news on admissions, new courses, visit www.thehindu.com/ education

RGCB DISCOVERIES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous National Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
Thycaud PO, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram 695 014
Phone: 0471 2529400, www.rgcb.res.in

Advt No: RGCB/PhD/2023-1 May 01, 2023

PhD ADMISSION – 2023

RGCB invites application for admission to the PhD program 2023 in various domains of Disease Biology, Neuroscience, Plant Science and Bioinformatics from post-graduates in Life/Environmental/Veterinary/Pharmaceutical/Medical Sciences or allied subjects (Biochemistry/Biotechnology/Bioinformatics/Biophysics/Chemistry/Microbiology, etc.) having a minimum of 60% marks and as per UGC guideline. The candidate should have a valid JRF (UGC/CSIR/ICMR/DBT/DST-INSPIRE or any other nationally-competitive fellowship) offered by the Government and should be valid for a period of 5 years. Complete information, application format and other details are available on the RGCB website (**www.rgcb.res.in**). Applications along with prescribed fees must be submitted online through the link given in the web portal on or before **June 15, 2023**. Incomplete applications and application without processing fees will be rejected.

Sd/-,
Director

SHAKTHI PU COLLEGE
Shakthinagar, Mangaluru
www.shakthi.edu.in

ಅಭಿನಂದನೆಗಳು

ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ 5 ನೇ ರ್‍ಯಾಂಕ್

593/600

OVERALL RESULT 100%

SCIENCE
Total Appeared students 61
Distinction: 43
70.49%
1st Class: 18
29.51%

ಲಾವಣ್ಯ ಶೆಟ್

COMMERCE
Total Appeared students 50
Distinction: 28
56%
1st Class: 22
44%

ADMISSION OPEN 2023-24 I & II PUC

Science PCMB — Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology
PCMC — Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & Computer Sc.
SHAKTHI COACHING ACADEMY — Coaching available for KCET | NEET | JEE | NATA | NDA
Commerce EBAC — Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy and Computer Science
EBAS — Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy and Statistics
SHAKTHI ADVANCED COMMERCE LEARNING — CA | CS - Foundation Course CLAT
LANGUAGES: English, Kannada / Hindi / Sanskrit / French
Scholorship available for Meritorious Students
Separate Hostel Facilities available for BOYS AND GIRLS

Shakthi PU College & Residential School
Near Shree Gopalakrishna Temple, Shakthinagar, Mangaluru - 575016
info@shakthi.edu.in
91080 43552 I 96860 00046 I 84312 47425
College Video

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sydney Scholars India Scholarship Programme

An opportunity offered by the University of Sydney for Indian undergraduate/ postgraduate applicants.

Eligibility: Open to Indian citizens who have received an unconditional offer of admission to an undergraduate or postgraduate coursework degree at the University of Sydney as an international student, as defined by the Higher Education Support Act 2003.

Rewards: Upto $40,000 (Aus) for a specific duration

Deadline: June 04

Application: Online

b4s.in/plus/SSIS3

Goonj Grassroots Fellowship 2023-24

A year-long programme offered by the non-profit Goonj to students who have passed their matriculation examination in which selected fellows will work in various development initiatives across rural India

Eligibility: Open to candidates between 18 and 30 years as on July 31, 2023. They must pass the matriculation examination by July 31, 2023, abd be fluent in Hindi or English (reading, writing and speaking) and have an understanding of the ground realities, geographical and socio-economic conditions of the region of placement.

Rewards: Up to ₹12,000 per month

Deadline: May 25

Application: Online OR via email at fellowship@goonj.org

b4s.in/plus/GGS5

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

CMR UNIVERSITY
Private University Established in Karnataka State by Act No. 45 of 2013
BENGALURU
Recognised by UGC

ENABLING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

B.Tech.	BBA	LL.M.	B.A.,LL.B.
B.Arch.	B.A.	B.B.A., LL.B.	
B.Des.	B.Sc.	BCA	B.Com.
MBA	MCA	M.Sc.	M.Tech.
PG Diploma			

STAY AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION
Apply today to get trained & certified in niche courses with CMRU ACCELERATED CREDITS

NEW PROGRAMMES
B.Sc.
Psychology
Sound Engineering
Visual Effects & Animation
BCA
Game Development

SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT CMRU

CMR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Approved by AICTE
Accredited A++ By NAAC
Permanently Affiliated to VTU
Recognized by Govt. of Karnataka

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
CMRIT
CMR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BENGALURU.

Accredited A++ by NAAC

Programmes Offered

B.E.	MBA
MCA	Ph.D.

SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS

admission@cmrit.ac.in | www.cmrit.ac.in | admissions@cmr.edu.in | www.cmr.edu.in

ADMISSIONS HELPLINE 93429 00666

Lakeside Campus : Off Hennur-Bagalur Main Road, Chagalahatti, Bengaluru - 562149
City Campus : #2, 3rd C Cross, 6th A Main, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560043
OMBR Campus : No.5, Bhuvanagiri, OMBR Layout, Bengaluru -560043
CMRIT Campus : 132, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru - 560037

Admissions NOW OPEN

https://thapar.edu
2023-2024

THAPAR INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

BE/BTech Programmes:
- Biomedical
- Biotechnology
- Civil
- Electronics (Instr. & Control)
- Computer
- Computer Science & Engg.
- Chemical
- Electronics & Communication
- Electrical
- Electrical & Computer
- Mechatronics
- Electronics & Computer
- Mechanical
- Computer Sci. & Business Systems
- Robotics & Artificial Intelligence##
- Civil with Computer Application##
- Electronics (VLSI Design & Technology)##

Liberal Arts & Sciences Programmes:
- BA
- BBA
- BSc

ME/MTech Programmes:
- Biotechnology
- CAD/CAM
- Infrastructure
- Computer Science & Engg.
- Power Systems
- Structural
- Software
- Electronics and Communications
- Thermal
- VLSI Design
- Environmental Science and Technology

MSc Programmes:
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Biotechnology
- Mathematics & Computing

MCA | MA (Psychology)
MBA | PhD Programmes

Subject to AICTE approval.
- Admission to **BE programmes** will be made on JEE Main - 2023, 10+2 PCM# criteria.
- Minor in Computer Science/Liberal Arts & Sciences is also available.
- ME/MTech programme in flexi mode is available for working professionals.

Last date for applications **BE/BTech - 08th May, 2023**
Date of counseling for **BE/BTech - 15th May, 2023**
#To apply and for detailed information, eligibility etc. visit https://admission.thapar.edu or call our toll free no. 18002024100

SCHOLARSHIPS/FEE WAIVER

BE/BTech
Over Rs. 23 Crores

BE/BTech (Lateral Entry)
Upto 50% tuition fee

ME/MTech
Rs. 17,400 PM (GATE Qualified)
Rs. 10,000 PM (Non GATE Qualified)

PhD
Rs. 35,000 PM (NET/GATE Qualified)

BE/BTech Non-IT Branches#
Upto 75% tuition fee

All BE/BTech and ME/MTech programmes are AICTE approved

International Partnerships
(For details, visit https://iep.thapar.edu)
University of Queensland, ***Australia***
University of New South Wales, ***Australia***
University of Leeds, ***UK***
University of Toledo, ***USA***
Tel Aviv University, ***Israel***
Trinity College Dublin, ***Ireland***

Scan to Apply

RANKINGS & ACCREDITATIONS

NAAC A+	#28	601-800	#31	#127	ABET	NBA
Accredited A+ by NAAC	*Engineering Category (2022)*	*Bracket in THE World University Rankings*	*University Category*	*THE Asia Ranking*	*Accredited programmes*	*Accredited programmes*

ENGINEERING I SCIENCES I MANAGEMENT I LIBERAL ARTS
PARTNERSHIPS WITH GLOBALLY TOP RANKED UNIVERSITIES
Bhadson Road, Patiala, Punjab -147004, India
18002024100 I admissions@thapar.edu

THAPAR INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (Deemed to be University)

Youth wings of parties scramble to woo youngsters ahead of polls

They have increased their social media presence and are focussing on issues related to employment and inflation

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

A file photo of youngsters after casting their votes in a byelection in Bengaluru.

Ahead of the Karnataka Assembly elections, the youth wings of all three major political parties – BJP, Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) – in Karnataka are trying to engage with young voters.

While the ruling BJP's youth wing is connecting with young voters by hosting meet and greet events by Union ministers and senior leaders of the party, the youth wings of the opposition Congress and JD (S) are reaching out to young voters on employment and inflation issues.

Unemployment stipend

Meanwhile, the Opposition Congress is connecting with the youth by raising various issues pertaining to them. The Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress Committee (KPYCC) is focusing on problems like unemployment and inflation and trying to engage them through the 'Yuva Dhwani' programme. The party has promised a monthly stipend of ₹3,000 for every unemployed graduate and ₹1,500 for unemployed diploma holders under Yuva Nidhi, if elected to power in Karnataka.

The KPYCC leaders said that they had conducted unemployment surveys in all districts to understand the issues from the grassroots level. General Secretary of National Youth Congress M.S. Raksha Ramaiah has been given the responsibility of attracting first-time voters and youth. He recently launched the "Yuva Mata" campaign to attract youngsters to voting booths.

"First-timers would be attracted towards Congress for its comprehensive development of the State. We have also announced a monthly stipend programme for unemployed youths. As an opposition party, it is our responsibility to create awareness among youth about problems like unemployment and inflation being faced in the State," Mr. Ramaiah said.

BJP Yuva Morcha (BJYM) has been trying to reach out to the youth with various initiatives and also giving information about the schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party has also conducted Yuva Samvada events across the state.

Some parties, besides working at booth level with youngsters, are holding events in places like parks, and organising bike rallies in various districts to connect with the youth

Recently, as part of Yuva Samvada, the party hosted an interaction meet and greet event organised by MPs P.C. Mohan and Tejasvi Surya at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru, where External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had an informal conversion with Cubbon Park walkers and the general public where Mr. Jaishankar spoke on the significance of hosting the G-20 Summit in India, relationship with Russia and China, priorities of the Quad and India's humanitarian efforts in Syria, Turkey and Afghanistan.

"Our party has been able to reach out to the youth through social media, and now we are also holding one-to-one interaction events in various educational institutions, residents' welfare associations, and public places. As part of these events, senior ministers in the central government will be participating. Apart from Mr. Jaishankar, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have also participated in such interaction events," a Karnataka BJYM leader told *The Hindu*.

Rural young voters

Karnataka Yuva Janata Dal, the youth wing of the JD (S) led by former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's son actor turned politician Nikhil Kumaraswamy has also been organising youth conventions in various districts of the state to connect with young voters.

The party has been active on various social media platforms this election and also connecting with rural youth through social media.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prathap L. Kanagal, JD(S) spokesperson, said, "We had organised youth conventions and bike rallies in various districts to connect with the youth. The major issues which we are focusing on are regional issues, including unemployment, Hindi imposition and the issues faced by several young farmers in Karnataka."

The party has also increased their social media presence at the booth level, targeting youth in rural Karnataka.

Mr. Kanagal said that they had sent three volunteers from the social media wing to various constituencies to work with their candidates and improve their social media presence.

First-time voters in city are clear on what type of government they want

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In Bengaluru, this time, there are 1.35 lakh voters in the 18-19 age group who will vote for the first time. FILE PHOTO

From college canteens to corridors, it's conversations around elections everywhere. With Karnataka preparing to go to the polls on May 10, several first-time voters are gearing up to participate in the democratic process, and they are visibly excited.

In Bengaluru, this time, there are 1.35 lakh voters aged 18-19 years who will vote for the first time, according to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Issues to focus on

At Bangalore University, students spoke about several issues that they will be keeping in mind as they go to vote this year. Prathiksha Prasad, a B.Com student from the University, said, "I am excited about voting. I have been keenly observing the political developments in the State over the last few months. I am aware that my vote makes a lot of difference, and I don't want to waste it. I have also read about the candidates of my constituency and what they have been doing in my constituency. I will not vote for the candidate by seeing the party; I will go for his or her performance and how he or she is going to solve the issues in my area."

Another student Shazia Khan said that NOTA (None of The Above) would not be a solution and said, "It will mean the possibility of another round of election, which will entail heavy public expenditure. Hence, I will not go for NOTA and make sure I will vote for the best candidate who will solve various issues related to the city."

Social media

Meanwhile, most young voters are relying on social media to keep themselves updated about the elections. Pavan Rao, a History student from a private college in the city, said that social media has been the place where he gets most of the updates on politics.

"I have been constantly going through the candidates' profiles and what their promises are on social media since many have been active on social media. This time, I want to see a change from caste-based and religion-based politics," he said.

According to first-time voters, their college canteens ring with conversations and debates about candidates, political parties and their manifestos.

Thushar T., a student of BBA in a private college, said, "Over the last few days in the canteen, after classes, while hanging out or in college corridors, it is like politics that has completely taken over everything. While I staunchly support sustainable development and management of solid waste in the city, there are crises that have to be solved. I would not support a government that does not support sustainability."

Social harmony

Students and first time voters also spoke on the education and employment front.

Most of them want the government and political parties to focus on employment issues and also to maintain social harmony. "We need a government that does not disrupt the social fabric of the State. This is my first vote and I need a government which sees all the communities equally," said Sharathchandra, a student of Media studies said.

SAVE THE DATE

IET India Scholarship
The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) invites applications for IET India Scholarship Award, which carries a combined prize money of Rs 10 lakh.
Eligibility: A full-time regular UG Engineering student (any year) from an AICTE/UGC approved institution; all regular credit courses must have been cleared in a single attempt; marks should be at least 60% aggregate for the semesters cleared so far or corresponding to CGPA of at least 6.5 in a 10 point scale.
Deadline: June 3
https://bit.ly/40yHUr0

PGP in Sports Management
IIM Rohtak invites applications for its Post Graduate Programme in Sports Management.
Eligibility: Bachelor's degree (in any discipline) and must be able to demonstrate an interest in sports. Selection process will include Sports Assessment Aptitude Test and Personal Interview (online).
Deadline: July 18
https://bit.ly/41P2lkz

Summer camp at Lexicon
Lexicon Institute of Hotel Management and The Lexicon Institute of Media and Advertising are jointly offering a week-long summer camp to help students master several trending skills in the Hospitality segment.
From May 2 to May 6.
https://bit.ly/43TVVmd and
https://bit.ly/41ILbFy

TDV opens admissions
The Design Village, Noida, invites applications to its Bachelor of Design (Graphics and Communication Design, Interaction Design (UX/UI), Product Design, Space and Interior Design, Fashion and Textile Design, Transport and Mobility Design) programmes and Master of Design (Product Design, Space and Interior Design, Fashion and Textile, Graphic and Communication Design) courses and M. Des. Integrated Programme (Space and Interior Design, Graphics and Communication Design). Candidates also have to clear the TDV Design Entrance Test, followed by an interview, for all.
Eligibility: Those who have passed or will appear for the qualifying exams under the higher secondary (10+2) from a recognised Board of Education such as AISSCE/IB/ICSE/CBSE. For M.Des, admissions will be based on the marks obtained in UG, supported by experience.
Entrance test: May 21
Deadline: May 19
More details at https://bit.ly/3mTWifO.

CHANAKYA UNIVERSITY
Established under The Chanakya University Act 2021 (Karnataka Act No. 37 of 2021)
Recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi.
Devanahalli Bengaluru

Chanakya University offers Scholarships worth INR 10 Cr for meritorious/ deserving students
CUPP 2023 CHANAKYA UNIVERSITY PRAVESHA PAREEKSHA
Placements Assured** Value-Added Professional Programs to enhance your employability skills
** As per Placement Policy
Separate Hostel Facility for Boys and Girls. Transportation available

Academic Programs for Batch 2023

School of Commerce and Management
UG Programs: B. B. A. (Hons.) · Digital Enterprises Management · Start-ups and Business Innovation · International Business · Services Management · Business Analytics; B. B. A. · Industry Embedded; B. Com. (Hons.) · Accounting and Taxation · Fintech
PG Programs: M.Com. · Finance · Business Analytics · Banking and Insurance · Logistics and Supply Chain Management; M.B.A. · Finance · Human Resources · Marketing · Logistics and Supply Chain Management · Business Analytics · Aviation · Tourism and Hospitality Management · Hospital Administration

School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
UG Programs: Scheme - 1 B. A. (Hons.) With Majors and Minors · Psychology · Economics · Journalism and Media Studies · English · Political Science · International Relations; Scheme - 2 B. A. (Hons.) Liberal Arts; Scheme - 3 B. A. (Hons.) With Civil Services Test Preparation; B.S.W. Bachelor of Social Work
PG Programs: M.A. - English; M.A. - Economics; M.S.W.

School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
UG Programs: B. Sc. (Hons.) · Computer Science · Mathematics · Actuarial Sciences; B. C. A. (Hons.) · Data Science · Cloud and Mobile Computing · Cyber Security and Digital Forensics
PG Programs: M.Sc. - Psychology; M.Sc. - Data Science; M.C.A.

School of Public Policy and Legal Studies
UG Programs: 5 Years integrated B. A., L.L.B. (Hons.); B.B.A., L.L.B. (Hons.) · The Legal Studies Programs are subject to approval of Regulatory Body.
PG Programs: L.L.M. 1 Year · Constitutional Law · Alternative Dispute Resolution

Liberal Education for flexibility in learning
Over 40 Majors & Minors to choose from | 4 Schools of Academic Excellence

State of the art Global Infrastructure and Facilities

Admissions Open for A.Y. 2023-24
+91 8550 8550 92 / 94
admissions@chanakyauniversity.edu.in
www.chanakyauniversity.edu.in

41 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION
Engineering/MBA/MTech/Ph.D
MVJ COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING Since 1982
An Autonomous Institute
Whitefield | Bengaluru

MVJ College of Engineering, established in 1982, believes in nurturing not just future professionals, but also individuals committed to lifelong learning. Our approach is built on a supportive and conducive learning environment, dedicated faculty, cutting-edge infrastructure, and innovative teaching methods that prepare our students to excel in their chosen fields. To this end, we offer opportunities for research, industrial exposure and entrepreneurship, with a focus on delivering value-added education.

ADMISSIONS 2023-24
+91 8150 811 811

Emerging B.E. Programmes
Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
Computer Science Engineering (Data Science)
Computer Science and Design
Industrial Internet of Things

Conventional B.E. Programmes
Aeronautical Engineering
Aerospace Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Science Engineering
Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Electronics and Communication Engineering
Information Science Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

M.Tech Programmes
Aeronautical Engineering
Computer Science Engineering
Structural Engineering
Transportation Engineering

MBA
Finance/Marketing/HR

Research Centres
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Computer Science Engineering
Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Electronics and Communication Engg.
Mechanical Engineering

24700 Engineers Graduated till date
27.7 LPA Highest Placement Package
700+ Companies visited till date
150+ University Ranks in the last Ten Years

Near ITPB, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560067 | contactmvjce@gmail.com | admissions.mvjce.edu.in

A slice of Mysuru culture showcased at PM's roadshow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waving at the crowd during a roadshow in Mysuru on Sunday. M.A. SRIRAM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sporting the Mysuru Peta, conducted a roadshow along the traditional Dasara procession route in Mysuru on Sunday as part of the ongoing campaign in a bid to shore up BJP's vote share and seats in the South Karnataka region.

The Prime Minister's roadshow was also part of the BJP's strategy of launching a blitzkrieg to bombard the voters in the Mysuru-Mandya-Chamarajanagar belt with the party's achievements where it was yet to make deep inroads. Out of the 22 seats in the belt, the BJP won four in the 2018 elections, and the party's efforts to win a majority in the State hinges on its performance in the South Karnataka region which is the bastion of the Congress and the Janata Dal (S).

The Prime Minister's Mysuru event -which commenced at 6.30 p.m. and took about 75 minutes - was different from the conventional roadshows as his vehicle was surrounded by party workers with the traditional Mysuru Peta and were walking along his vehicle. A group of women, including dancers, cultural troupes and women in traditional Kodava attire was in the lead. By the time the roadshow ended it was dark but people milled on both sides of the road to catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister and showered him with flower petals.

There was also seating arrangements at a few designated places for citizens to get a view of the Prime Minister. The BJP functionaries said that 25 cultural and folk troupes were part of the roadshow, adding a festive verve to the political event. An ensemble of traditional musicians were playing the *nadaswara,* while there were artists depicting *dollu kunita, puja kunita, somana kunita, Veerabhadra Kunita, Kamsale* etc.

Honouring the PM

The Prime Minister was earlier received by former Ministers K.S. Eshwarappa and S.A. Ramdas who honoured Mr. Modi with a shawl, the Mysuru Peta and offered a sandal garland, apart from according him the traditional *Poornakumbha* welcome.

The roadshow commenced from the Gun House circle to reach Sanskrit Pathashala, MCC office, City Bus Stand and K.R. Circle from where it took the Dasara procession route to reach Bannimantap and the Highway Circle, entailing a distance of almost 4 km.

Mr. Eshwarappa, Mr. Ramdas, and Mysuru MP Pratap Simha accompanied Mr. Modi.

Modi ridicules JD(S) as B-team of Congress

'Every vote cast for the JD(S) is a vote for the Congress and will bring instability. Though they are seen as different, their hearts remain together and they increase corruption'

Sharath S. Srivatsa
CHANNAPATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday chose Channapatna, the Janata Dal (Secular) bastion where party leader H.D. Kumaraswamy is contesting, to launch a tirade against the regional outfit and described it as the B-team of the Congress.

Addressing a poll convention at Channapatna of Ramanagara district, Mr. Modi alleged, "Every vote for the JD(S) is a vote for the Congress and will bring instability. Though they are seen as different, their hearts remain together and increase corruption. In Delhi, they are together. These unstable governments are formed to loot (people) and not for development. The JD(S) and the Congress are the reasons for instability in Karnataka".

"Karnataka is a kind of ATM for the JD(S) and the Congress. However, the BJP sees Karnataka as an important growth engine for the country. This election is very special and will decide the State's development for the next 25 years. This election is about making Karnataka the number one State, and only the BJP can do it," he claimed.

While Mr. Modi avoided an attack on the JD(S) at his earlier rally in Mandya by focusing his attention on the Congress, on Sunday he chose to take on the regional outfit at Channapatna where the BJP candidate, former Minister C.P. Yogeshwar, is taking on Mr. Kumaraswamy.

The JD(S) has turned Ramanagara into its bastion, as in 2018 the party won three of the four seats in this Vokkaliga dominated district in Old Mysuru region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with Mandya MP Sumalatha, BJP leaders R. Ashok and C.P. Yogeshwar at an election rally in Channapatna taluk of Ramanagara district on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an election rally near Mattikere-Shettihalli at Channapatna taluk in Ramanagara district on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Ridiculing the JD(S), Mr. Modi reminded the crowd of the regional party's statement where it had said that with 15 to 20 seats, the party would become kingmakers.

'Create instability'

"It will create instability and only one family will benefit, but lakhs of families in the State will suffer. When the JD(S) and the Congress form governments, only some special families get benefits. However, the BJP treats every family in India as its own family," he said.

Asking voters to be wary of the two Opposition parties, he said that the Congress' policy was to scrap pro-people programmes started by the BJP. "The Congress is like the reverse gear for all major announcements. The JD(S) is like a B-team that will agree to what the Congress does. Karnataka cannot go in the reverse direction; people should be careful about them," the PM said.

Incidentally, the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had termed the JD(S) as the B-team of the BJP in the 2018 elections.

Remarking that "deceit" is another name for the Congress, he said that every guarantee was a bundle of lies. "The Congress has a track record of deceiving farmers. Before the 2008 elections, it announced the loan waiver scheme. While the fake scheme helped those who were with the Congress, crores of farmers did not benefit as doors of the banks remained closed to them. This is the Congress' track record".

"In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress had announced ₹1,500 incentive for women before the election and this was to be implemented in the first Cabinet meeting. However, during that meeting, the diesel price was increased. Till today, women are waiting for that ₹1,500."

The Prime Minister later addressed a convention in Belur of Hassan district, which is as strong bastion of the JD(S), and continued the tirade against the regional outfit.

Addressing a rally near Ibbeedu near Belur in Hassan district on Sunday, Mr. Modi said the JD(S) had been one family's private limited party.

Mulbagal dosa finds a mention in PM's speech

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The famous Mulbagal dosa was mentioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed a convention in Kolar on Sunday. "The initiatives of the double-engine government regarding modern connectivity can bring about transformation in this region. In fact, the good connectivity has taken the taste of your Mulbagal dosa to distant places," Mr. Modi said.

'I am fine being a snake garland around necks of people who are like Lord Shiva to me'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi again chose to respond to the Congress' jibe of a poisonous snake by saying that a snake is the garland around the neck of Lord Shiva, and that he was okay with being the snake around the necks of the people of the country, who were like Lord Shiva for him.

"The main issue for the Karnataka polls for the Congress is a poisonous snake. They are comparing me to the snake and seeking votes from people. But a snake is the garland on Bhagwan Shankar's neck. For me, the people of the country are like Lord Shiva. Hence I accept being a snake on the necks of people of the country who are like Lord Shiva for me," he remarked, while addressing a public meeting in Kolar as part of the campaign for the ruling BJP for the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka.

Karnataka Votes 2023

"But I know the people of Karnataka will give a fitting reply to the Congress, through their votes, for making such remarks against me. The anger of the people of Karnataka will show up on May 10," he said.

It may be noted that AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge had described Mr. Modi as a poisonous snake recently, triggering a controversy.

Mr. Modi also tried to turn the tables on the Congress that had been accusing the State government of demanding 40% commission from contractors for clearing their bills.

The Prime Minister remarked that the main identity of the Congress was being a dispensation of 85% commission.

"It is not me who is making such an allegation. This was admitted by a tall leader and the then Prime Minister from the Congress. The leader used to say proudly that if he sends ₹1 from Delhi, only 15 paise would reach the ground," he said, and remarked that it was an indication that the Congress was getting 85% commission.

"But now, whatever money is sent by the BJP government at the Centre, it reaches the beneficiaries 100%. In fact, we sent ₹29 lakh crore in the last nine years to beneficiaries' accounts through direct transfer benefit. If there was the Congress dispensation believing in 85% commission, then ₹24 lakh crore from this would not have reached beneficiaries," he alleged, and urged people to imagine how much money could have been stored by the Congress leaders in their wallets.

Launching a tirade against the Congress, he alleged: "It cannot act against corruption and cannot take up any scheme that does not have any scam. Even now several leaders, including those from its first family, are out on bail with respect to corruption cases".

"The Congress is facing difficulties as we have launched a crusade against corruption. Hence they are threatening and saying that they are digging Mr. Modi's grave," he said.

Speaking in Channapatna, he said, "I have completed a century of *Mann Ki Baat* today. But the Congress leaders are competing with each other to complete a century of abuses against me".

It is an election of generational shift at Shikaripur as BSY makes way for son

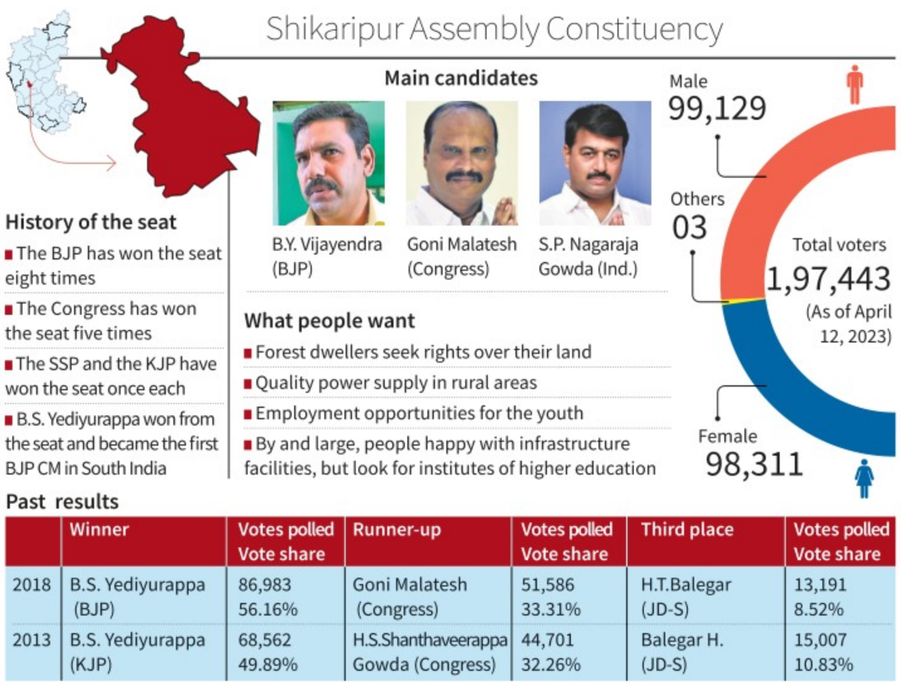
KEY CONSTITUENCY

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Shikaripur constituency in Shivamogga district is witnessing a generational shift in the current elections. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, 80, who began his career as an MLA in 1983, contested for the Assembly constituency nine times and won eight times, has retired from electoral politics. However, the party is highly dependent on his campaign across the State, irrespective of his age. Mr. Yediyurappa has been replaced by his second son, B.Y. Vijayendra, 47, as the BJP candidate. Interestingly, even before he has begun his electoral career, his followers often refer to him as the "future CM".

Mr. Vijayendra, who has been working as vice-president of the party's Karnataka unit, has exhibited his electioneering skills in the byelections at K.R. Pet and Sira constituencies.

Mr. Vijayendra is facing a fight from two candidates: Goni Malatesh of the Congress and S.P. Nagaraj Gowda, an Independent candidate. Mr. Gowda, who was with the Congress, sought the party ticket to contest against Mr. Vijayendra. However, the party chose Mr. Malatesh, who had contested against Mr. Yediyurappa in the last election. Upset over the party's decision, Mr. Gowda, a Lingayat (Sadar), rebelled and chose to contest as an Independent, with the support of a section of leaders within the party.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	B.S. Yediyurappa (BJP)	86,983 56.16%	Goni Malatesh (Congress)	51,586 33.31%	H.T.Balegar (JD-S)	13,191 8.52%
2013	B.S. Yediyurappa (KJP)	68,562 49.89%	H.S.Shanthaveerappa Gowda (Congress)	44,701 32.26%	Balegar H. (JD-S)	15,007 10.83%

Choice raises eyebrows

The Congress' choice of Mr. Malatesh, a Kuruba leader, gave rise to speculation that two former Chief Ministers, Mr. Yediyurappa and Siddaramaiah, had an understanding for their individual political benefits.

Earlier, there were reports that the BJP would field Mr. Vijayendra against Mr. Siddaramaiah in Varuna constituency. Mr. Yediyurappa openly opposed it and declared that his son would contest from Shikaripur.

In turn, Mr. Siddaramaiah, it is said, suggested Mr. Malatesh for the constituency to "help" Mr. Vijayendra.

However, Mr. Malatesh has termed such speculations "baseless", arguing that if he was a "weak candidate", how could he get 51,586 votes against Mr. Yediyurappa in the last elections?

Mr. Gowda is seeking votes on the grounds that Mr. Yediyurappa did not help people from his caste (Sadar-Lingayat) in the constituency come up in politics. Besides that, he appears to have the support of Banjara community members, who have expressed their anger against Mr. Yediyurappa and the BJP government for favouring internal reservation among the Scheduled Castes. The Banjraras began their protests against the government's decision in Shikaripur on March 27.

The BJP did make efforts to convince Banjaras, who

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa contested from the constituency nine times and won on eight occasions

form a considerable number of votes in the constituency, by bringing top leaders of the community during the campaign. However, a major section of the community is still unhappy. Angry youths of the community sent Mr. Vijayendra back from the village without allowing him to campaign.

The Congress candidate is banking on the traditional votes of the party. The candidate is hopeful of bringing Mr. Siddaramaiah to the campaign and bringing back the traditional votes to the party fold.

Mr. Vijayendra banks on the long-standing image of his father, besides his elder brother B.Y. Raghavendra, Lok Sabha member.

Historical importance

Shikaripur has a significant place in the history of the 12th century Vachana movement that was against caste-based discrimination. Allama Prabhu and Akka Mahadevi, who were prominent poets of the movement, led by social reformer Basavanna, are natives of Shikaripur taluk.

Nadda meets Praveen Nettaru's family in DK

Raghava M.
BELLARE (DAKSHINA KANNADA)

BJP national president J.P. Nadda said on Sunday that the family of Praveen Nettaru, the party's Yuva Morcha worker who was allegedly killed by the now banned Popular Front of India (PFI) cadre in Dakshina Kannada last year, will get justice.

Speaking to presspersons after meeting the family members of Nettaru at his house, near Sullia, Mr. Nadda said that the sacrifice of Nettaru will not go waste. "It is really sad to see the way how the SDPI and PFI activists conspired to kill Nettaru. It is always condemnable. The fight against such forces will continue," he said and added: "His loss cannot be filled by any means."

He said that the double engine government is trying its best to meet the needs of family members of Nettaru. "I assure that the fight against people of such (killing) mentality will continue till it reaches the logical end. Nettaru's family will get justice and the government will stand by Nettaru's family."

After landing on Sullia helipad at 5 p.m., Mr. Nadda drove to Nettaru's house near Bellare in Sullia Taluk.

HDD too campaigns in Channapatna

The Hindu Bureau
CHANNAPATNA

The Channapatna Assembly constituency, currently represented by former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, on Sunday witnessed not only a campaign rally by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but also an election rally of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda.

While Mr. Modi addressed the rally at Shettihalli near Channapatna and launched an attack on the Janata Dal (Secular), Mr. Gowda took part in multiple meetings in and around Iggaluru village, seeking votes for his son Mr. Kumaraswamy. He also visited the Iggaluru dam during his visit.

Mr. Gowda has been on the campaign trail for the past couple of days and he has said he will continue to do so till the last day of campaigning on May 8.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda at Iggaluru village on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Mr. Kumaraswamy, who is currently touring other constituencies in the State, is expected to campaign in Channapatna on May 8. Incidentally, on Sunday he and his wife Anitha Kumaraswamy campaigned for their son Nikhil Kumaraswamy in Ramanagara, the neighbouring constituency.

Siddaramaiah challenges Narendra Modi to a race

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking serious exception to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ridiculing that he was seeking votes by saying that it was his last election, Congress leader Siddaramaiah has not only said that he was fit to continue in active politics, but also challenged the Prime Minister to a race.

"I am not retiring from active politics, though this is my last election. I am fit enough to continue in active politics. If Mr. Modi is willing, I am ready for a running race with him," Mr. Siddaramaiah tweeted.

Cong. will increase honorarium to ASHAs, anganwadi workers: Priyanka

Anganwadi workers will get ₹3 lakh and mini-anganwadi workers ₹2 lakh after retirement, she says

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Congress will increase the honorarium to Accredited Social Health Activists, anganwadi, and midday meal workers by significant amounts, Priyanka Gandhi, Congress leader, said in Khanapur on Sunday. She was speaking at a rally to campaign for party candidate Anjali Nimbalkar.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi campaigning for party nominee Anjali Nimbalkar in Khanapur on Sunday. P.K. BADIGER

"Our party has decided to increase the honorarium to ₹15,000 for anganwadi workers, ₹10,000 for mini-anganwadi workers, ₹8,000 for ASHAs, and ₹5,000 for midday meal workers," she said. "Anganwadi workers will get ₹3 lakh and mini-anganwadi workers will get ₹2 lakh after retirement. Such amounts will go to their families in the case of death," she said. Workers of the Congress explained that by mini anganwadi worker, Ms. Gandhi meant anganwadi assistants.

"ASHAs have been working tirelessly with women in the villages. They are out on the streets, day and night to provide healthcare facilities for women. We have all seen how they have taken great risks while working during the pandemic. We need to recognise their efforts," she said. Ms. Gandhi did not term it another of the Congress' guarantees. But the Congress district unit shared images of the leader with the announcement and tagged it as a Congress guarantee. They said that the anganwadi workers would get ₹15,000 up from the present ₹11,5000, anganwadi assistants would get ₹10,000 up from the ₹7,500, ASHAs will get ₹8,000 up from ₹5,000 now, and midday meal workers will get ₹5,000 up from ₹3,700 now. "This is our Congress guarantee to these workers," they said.

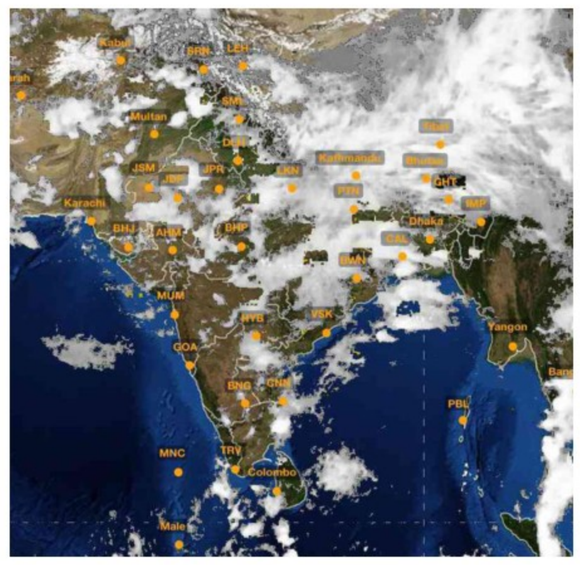
Many injured as coal tipper rams RTC bus

The Hindu Bureau
BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

Around 43 passengers were injured, four of them grievously, when a Guntur-bound TSRTC bus overturned after being hit by a speeding coal tipper on NH 30 at Rudrampur in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district on Sunday. The bus turned upside down before landing on one side under the impact of the collision, sources said. With 47 passengers on board, it was heading to Guntur from Bhadrachalam when the incident took place. The coal tipper rammed the bus at high speed, sources said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over ghat areas of Tamil Nadu, Rayalaseema; Heavy rainfall at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.0	35.4	21.9	Kozhikode	9.0	36.0	24.3
Ahmedabad	—	32.8	23.1	Kurnool	—	35.6	24.4
Aizawl	—	35.4	18.1	Lucknow	—	34.8	24.4
Allahabad	—	38.0	25.0	Madurai	—	35.4	24.4
Bengaluru	20.0	31.1	22.5	Mangaluru	—	34.6	25.0
Bhopal	2.0	28.7	20.0	Mumbai	2.0	32.8	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.8	25.6	Mysuru	—	36.2	24.2
Chandigarh	—	30.9	21.6	New Delhi	—	28.8	21.4
Chennai	—	35.4	28.1	Patna	—	35.5	26.2
Coimbatore	3.6	35.5	22.0	Port Blair	—	33.8	27.2
Dehradun	—	31.2	19.5	Puducherry	0.8	34.8	25.4
Gangtok	18.0	18.0	13.0	Pune	—	36.0	20.7
Goa	—	34.9	25.0	Raipur	1.6	34.0	22.5
Guwahati	—	31.2	21.4	Ranchi	—	31.2	22.6
Hubballi	—	34.0	22.0	Shillong	0.5	24.2	14.0
Hyderabad	—	31.9	24.4	Shimla	3.0	17.0	11.1
Imphal	6.0	33.2	21.2	Srinagar	—	20.8	10.5
Jaipur	—	29.5	23.3	Thiruvananthapuram	26.0	33.2	24.5
Kochi	—	32.2	26.0	Tiruchi	15.0	34.5	25.6
Kohima	—	22.6	18.6	Vijayawada	77.0	34.2	24.6
Kolkata	—	36.9	26.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.6	26.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..18	24	... 119	...124	
Bengaluru	.07	235	33	 43	57	
Chennai	.02	..66	76	 58	54	
Delhi	.08	..44	38	... 228	...132	
Hyderabad	.06	..25	32	 63	99	
Kolkata	.10	..21	16	 47	50	
Lucknow	.06	..49	31	... 127	...150	
Mumbai	.32	..17	10	 61	...149	
Pune	.10	..16	36	 71	...117	
Visakhapatnam	.19	..56	19	 80	...143	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 263 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Arikompan shifted to Periyar reserve

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

After efforts lasting several hours, the wild tusker, locally called Arikompan, was successfully translocated to an area near Seeniyaroda under the Mullakkudy forest section of the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Thekkady on Sunday.

According to High Range Circle Chief Conservator of Forests, Arun R.S., "After the release, the Forest Department received over 11 signals from the satellite radio collar fixed on the tusker." The Forest Department will closely monitor the movements of the tusker, he added.

Thrissur Pooram celebrated with splendour

Visual treat: People witnessing the Kudamattam ceremony during the Thrissur Pooram festivities on Sunday. K.K. NAJEEB

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

Revellers packed the streets of Thrissur on Sunday to soak in the festival spirit of the Thrissur Pooram, where religious ardour mingled with carnival spirit.

The festival kept its promise to be picture perfect. It was religiously conservative. Yet headily carnivalesque.

More than 100 jumbos on parade, exciting rhythm of percussion ensembles, religious ceremonies and breathtaking fireworks were on offer.

As expected, a record crowd poured into the Thekkinkadu Maidan from the morning to savour the festival glory and thrill. It was fun with roaring crowds, hypnotic drummers and pipers and plenty of eating and drinking. So was the wayside hawkers selling peanuts, ice cream, fruit and soft drinks.

In spite of the declaration of a red alert, weather was pleasant throughout the day.

Thrissur witnessed heavy rain till midnight on Friday.

Celebrated in the Malayalam month of Medam (April-May), Thrissur Pooram signifies the symbolic meeting of 10 temples. Thiruvambadi and Paramekkavu Devaswoms are the main participants of the Pooram.

Rain likely to continue in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Rain continued to lash many parts of Andhra Pradesh.

On Sunday, several mandals in Prakasam, Konaseema and Krishna districts received heavy to very heavy rainfall in the State.

Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority and IMD warned that rainfall will likely occur in many areas in the State on Monday and Tuesday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule of property from its owner **MRS. MARILYN GEORGE CHALAKKAL,** Aged about 48 Years, Wife of Mr. Arjun U Nambisan, Residing at No.G2, Bel-Vista Apartments, 206, 3rd Main, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038.

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

Schedule of Property

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being Vacant Site Nos.6 and 7, Property No.502/2, Khatha No. 225/1, situated at Kalkere Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 80 feet, totally measuring 4800 sft, and bounded by: East - Private Propety; West - 30 feet Road; North - Site No.5; South - Site No.29.

Sd/- K.B.Mukundan, B.A., LL.M,
Advocate, No.203, BSR Residency,
Kanakanagar,R.T.Nagar, Bangalore-32.
Cell: 94483 54295

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client Mr. Shridhar Bhat, Mrs. Usha Ananth Hegde, and Mr. Prabhanjan G. Upadhya is intending to purchase the land bearing Sy. No. 7, measuring 2 Acre 9 Guntas situated at Sugganahalli Village, Kuduru Hobli, Magadi Taluk from its owner Smt. Venkatalakshmi.

If anybody or any authority having any right, title, claims, interest or objections over the same, may file their objections with documents to below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of this public notice. Failing which my client will proceed to purchase the above said Property by treating no one has objections in respect of the said properties.

Subrahmanya Hegde
Advocate
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES
76-77, Krishna Krupa Building
Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road
Sheshadripuram,
Date : 28.04.2023 Bangalore-20.
Place : Bangalore Mob: 9060069259.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT, my client intends to transact in respect of the vacant undeveloped lands totally measuring an extent of about **1 acre ¾ guntas** comprised in various Survey Numbers of **Thindlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural,** more particularly described in the **'Schedule'** herein below and hereinafter collectively referred to as the **"Schedule Properties"** with Creation Shelters Private Limited, having its office at No.99/B, Koramangala 5th Block, Bangalore – 560 095.

If any person/s, entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has or claims any right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Properties or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing, together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made together with supporting documents ***within fifteen (15) days*** from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been waived and/or given up and my client shall be entitled to complete the transaction in respect of the Schedule Properties. Objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of the vacant undeveloped lands totally measuring an extent of about **1 acre ¾ guntas comprised in various Survey Numbers of Thindlu Village, SarjapuraHobli, Anekal Taluk.** The details of each of the Survey Numbers, extents and boundaries are set out herein below:-

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Extent		BOUNDARIES			
		Acres	Guntas	East By	West by	North by	South by
01	70/4	0	0.5	Sy No.70/1	Sy No.70/1	Sy No.72/3	Sy No.70/2
02	82/2	0	04	Sy Nos.75/1 & 75/6	Sy No.82/2	Sy No.81	Sy No.82/3
03	87/2	0	36.04	Sy Nos. 82/5, 73/1 & 73/7	Sy Nos.88/1, 88/2 & 88/3	Sy No.87/1 & 88/1	Sy Nos.88/2 & 88/4

Mr. Arvind Raghavan
Arvind Raghavan and Associates, Advocates and Solicitors,
No.48, 'ISHITA', 3rd Floor,2nd Main Road, Vyalikaval, Bangalore-560 003.
E: arvind_ncsr@yahoo.com
Bangalore Date: 01.05.2023

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

INDIA'S BEST CLAT COACHING
ADMISSION OPEN
DROPPER'S BATCH For 12th completed students
LAW PREP Tutorial — CLAT Prep at it's Best!
GET 50% SCHOLARSHIP ON TUITION FEES
NEW BATCH STARTING FROM 7th MAY
8 Months OFFLINE ONLINE PROGRAM
GNANANKIT NLSIU | SAI ESHWAR NLSIU | SANATH NLSIU
NAMMA BENGALURU CENTERS : JAYANAGAR | VIJAYANAGAR | MALLESHWARAM
9742376459 9731212124
OTHER CITIES : JODHPUR | JAIPUR | DELHI | BHOPAL | LUCKNOW | KANPUR | PRAYAGRAJ | DEHRADUN | RANCHI | JABALPUR | MUZZAFARPUR | PATNA | GURGAON

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRAMILA Legally Wedded Spouse Of No 7781938Y HAV(MP) Ashok Kumar Yadav, Residing At Sauna(Anare), Post Sauna, Teh–Saidpur, Distt–Ghazipur, State–Up Pin 233221 Have Changed My Name From Pramila To Pramila Yadav Vide Affidavit Dated 24/04/2023, Banglore

Preetam S/o Shamrao Hanumanthrao Kulkarni Native Dist: Kalaburagi, Shall henceforth be known as Preetam Kulkarni.

I Upendar Sah S/O, Pravin Kumar R/o Vill- Chakesho Po-Mahnar Teh-Mahnar Distt- Vaishali State - Bihar have changed my name to Upendra Sah for all purposes.

REAL ESTATE

WELL CONDITION 30 bedded Nursing home 60 X 55 ft, 4 floors Bangalore North, 7 cr for sale, Call 9742619734

ASTROLOGY

RUDRAKSH REMEDY (since1518): Kundli, Job, Vastu, Luv, Grah. 40 yrs exp Global Astro- 9896304000

TENDERS

HOMCO
The Kerala State Homoeopathic Co Operative Pharmacy Ltd,
Pathirappally,Alappuzha 688 521
Ph:0477-2258012,2258665,9946668794
www.homcokerala.com
Email:homcokerala@gmail.com,
marketing@homcokerala.com

HMK /ISL-01/23 26.04.2023

NOTICE

Expression of interest is invited from experienced parties for appointment as Liaison Agents in different states of the country. Interested parties may submit their details to the under signed on or before 08.05.2023 5pm. For more details please contact our marketing division at Alappuzha,Kerala

(Sd/-)
Managing Director

GRAB YOUR DEALS & DISCOUNTS! TIMING 10.00 AM TO 8.30 PM

HOME FURNITURE EXPO

• LIFESTYLE • INTERIOR • DECOR

LAST DAY TODAY

TRIPURAVASINI PALACE GROUND, NEAR MEKHRI CIRCLE, BENGALURU

CARVED SOFA SET | ETHNIC FURNITURE
MODERN DINING SETS | WOODEN DINING SETS
SIDE BOARD | CROCKERY UNIT
BIGGEST SAVING SALE
DINING SETS | SIDEBOARDS | CURIOUS CUPBOARD
LIVING ROOM SET | RECLINERS SET | SECTIONAL SOFA
BEDROOM SETS
ARMOIRES & WARDROBES
DRESSERS | MATTRESSES
BUNKER BED
MASSAGE CHAIR
CARVED WOODEN JHULA
ARTIFACTS | HOME DECOR PRODUCTS | WATER FOUNTAIN

exhibitions_iadsnevents
iadsnevents
ALL MAJOR CREDIT / DEBIT CARD ACCEPTED
ENTRY FREE
+91 93425 77908
AN EVENT BY iads & events COMPLETE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Focus on the borders

India and China must end the lingering unpredictability across the LAC

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's message to his visiting Chinese counterpart General Li Shangfu, that Beijing's violation of border agreements had "eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations", has once again served as a reminder of how the two neighbours remain far apart in their assessments of what ails their relationship, and how to fix it. Thursday's talks, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers Meeting in New Delhi, saw both sides reiterate their respective stands on the border issue but no meeting of minds. The Defence Minister underlined India's position that the development of ties is premised on peace on the borders. While India has continued to convey a sense of urgency to resolve the Line of Actual Control (LAC) crisis, the Chinese Defence Minister, on the other hand, called on India to "take a long-term view" and "place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations", a divergence from India's stand that the rest of relations is predicated on peace along the LAC. Rajnath Singh conveyed to Beijing that if normalcy is to be restored in ties, disengagement in the two remaining friction points will need to be followed by de-escalation. This includes the eventual de-induction of the estimated one lakh troops from both sides that have remained deployed in forward areas for close to three years – a situation not seen along the India-China border in more than three decades.

The disengagement process has itself been long and tortuous. Over the past three years, buffer zones have been established in some of the five friction areas where the two sides disengaged. In two other areas, Demchok and Depsang, Beijing has dragged its feet, slowing down the initial momentum of the Corps Commander meetings. The 18th round, held days before the Chinese Defence Minister's arrival and after an unexplained four month-delay following the previous round, did not yield a joint statement, suggesting stark divergences remain on how to move forward. De-escalation, meanwhile, remains a far-off prospect. This new normal along the LAC, with large deployments in close proximity as well as an on-going race to build more forward infrastructure, appears here to stay, leaving the borders in what the Indian Army Chief has described as a "stable but unpredictable" state. Regardless of Beijing's wishes to downplay the seriousness of the border situation and relegate it to an "appropriate" position, managing the LAC should certainly remain the priority for both sides to prevent the recurrence of the clashes of 2020. India and China cannot restore normalcy in relations under the shadow of lingering unpredictability on the borders.

Desperate for justice

Wrestling needs to be rescued from its feudal culture of exploitation

India's leading wrestlers, especially women supported by their male counterparts, have again taken to the streets in Delhi. If the first protest was during the winter in January, the latest is happening in peak summer at Jantar Mantar. That both the biting cold and the searing heat did not diminish these athletes' determination to air their sexual-harassment grievances against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) office-bearers, especially its president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, is a reflection of their trauma. It also reveals their sheer despondency as even the Oversight Committee led by Olympian Mary Kom set to clean up the system, has not yielded any results. That three inconclusive months have lapsed since the first public complaint is another pointer to the inhumane reaction that often trails sexual-harassment allegations. First there is silence from people in authority, then there are furious denials, and third, insinuations are allowed to seep in about the victim's morality. Brij Bhushan may have stepped aside from the day-to-day functioning of the WFI but this sports administrator, essentially a BJP MP from Uttar Pradesh, has enough clout to stymie efforts to prise him out from the federation.

Wrestling harks back to India's rural heartland, especially North India, and is seen by sportspersons as an opportunity to escape the suffocating feudal atmosphere. The trust in a coach or official borders on blind devotion and this trait gets exploited. To not accept gender-violence as a sordid reality and to sweep it under the political-rivalry carpet does no good to Indian sport. This is not about the central government pitted against the opposition; it is about fairness in dealing with athletes. The Indian Olympic Association president, P.T. Usha, an icon for many, made it worse by stating that the athletes are tarnishing the country's image. Be it Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik or Bajrang Punia, who have led the protests, their quest for justice and desire for a complete overhaul of the WFI structure are genuine endeavours. The Supreme Court's directive that forced the Delhi Police to lodge a first information report against Brij Bhushan is a step in the right direction. More was expected from the larger sporting fraternity but with the exception of Olympic gold medallists Abhinav Bindra and Neeraj Chopra, the rest, especially the much-feted cricketers, have responded feebly. Kapil Dev and a few other players besides Sania Mirza voiced their concern through social media. But these remain the few volleys of resistance. India's medal-winning wrestlers deserve better.

India, its SDG pledge goal, and the strategy to apply

S.V. Subramanian

is a Professor of Population Health and Geography at Harvard University. He is the Principal Investigator of the India Policy Insights initiative at the Geographic Insights Lab at Harvard

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, while addressing the first meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under India's G20 Presidency, held on February 24-25, 2023, expressed concern that "progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) seems to be slowing down". Regardless of the global progress that has been made to date, the sheer population size of India means that realising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a global scale is intrinsically tied to the success of India. There is considerable confidence in India becoming the third largest economy in the world over the next decade. However, translating this growth into progress on social and human development must be equally valued. Seen from this perspective, the Prime Minister's concern deserves immediate attention.

India's progress is mixed

The SDGs framework sets targets for 231 unique indicators across 17 SDG goals related to economic development, social welfare and environmental sustainability, to be met by 2030. Roughly halfway to the deadline, where does India currently stand with regards to progress on these indicators? Are there lessons from India's recent mobilisation for COVID-19 (a comprehensive response that demonstrated India's ability to deliver at scale for its population) that could be adapted for the SDGs?

A recent study (https://bit.ly/3LJtAYR) assesses India's progress on 33 welfare indicators, covering nine SDGs and providing a mixed picture of positive and concerning trends.

The good news is that India is 'On-Target' to meeting 14 of the 33 SDGs, including indicators for neonatal and under-five mortality, full vaccination, improved sanitation, and electricity access, all of which have substantially improved in the last five years. Unfortunately, the national 'On-Target' designation does not apply equally across all districts. While neonatal and under-five mortality are currently both 'On-Target' for the country, 286 and 208 districts (out of 707 districts), respectively, are not. Similarly, significant progress on access to improved sanitation excludes 129 districts that are not on course to meet this SDG indicator.

Indicators such as eliminating adolescent pregnancy, reducing multidimensional poverty, and women having bank accounts have improved across a vast majority of the districts between the years 2016 and 2021.

> The country needs to replicate its COVID-19 response plan to succeed in meeting its SDG targets — one that is also pioneering and a nation-wide effort

Of concern, for 19 of the 33 SDG indicators, the current pace of improvement is not enough to meet SDG targets. Despite a national policy push for clean fuel for cooking, more than two-thirds (479) of districts remain 'Off-Target'. Similarly, some 415 and 278 districts are 'Off-Target' for improved water and handwashing facilities, respectively.

Of heightened concern are SDG indicators for women's well-being and gender inequality. No district in India has yet succeeded in eliminating the practice of girl child marriage before the legal age of 18 years. At the current pace, more than three-fourths (539) of districts will not be able to reduce the prevalence of girl child marriage to the SDG target of 0.5% by 2030. Unsurprisingly, other critical and related indicators such as teenage pregnancy (15-19 years) and partner violence (physical and sexual) that may be tracked back to child marriage are issues that India needs to escalate as priorities. Despite the overall expansion of mobile phone access in India (93% of households), only 56% women report owning a mobile phone, with 567 districts remaining 'Off-Target'. More detailed geographical exploration of the SDG indicators is available at: https://bit.ly/3oTyjhz.

Lessons from the COVID-19 approach

Designing and implementing a policy response to a pressing issue is best viewed as an "optimisation problem" relying on political will, responsive administration, adequate resources, and sound data. India adopted an "optimisation" approach to the COVID-19 pandemic and thus, it was given the focus and resources necessary to succeed. There are lessons from this strategy that can inform and optimise India's approach to its SDG targets.

First, strong and sustained political leadership supported by a responsive administrative structure at all levels, from national to the district level, was critical to the success both of India's COVID-19 vaccination programme and its efficient rollout of a comprehensive relief package. This rare, nimble political-administrative synergy was willing to learn and undertake course corrections in real-time. Creating a similar mission-oriented ethos that is assessment-oriented and which provides adequate support for accomplishing India's district-level SDGs is now urgently needed.

Second, India's success with COVID-19 was largely possible both because of the existing digital infrastructure, as well as new, indigenous initiatives such as the Co-WIN data platform, and the Aarogya Setu application. Following these examples, India must put in place a coordinated, public data platform for population health management, by consolidating its many siloed platforms into an integrated digital resource for district administrators, as well as State and national policy makers.

Finally, a targeted SDG strategy delivered at scale must be executed with the same timeliness of India's COVID-19 relief package. As early as March 2020, the Government of India had put in place the ₹1.70 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, later augmented to nearly ₹6.29 lakh crore, which included the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (₹3.91 lakh crore until December 2022) covering 800 million people. Key to this relief programme was a mix of spending to provide direct in-kind and economic support, as well as measures aimed at revitalising the economy, small businesses, and agriculture. This was critical in blunting the adverse effects of COVID-19, especially for vulnerable and the socio-economically disadvantaged groups. It also measurably demonstrated the value of a proactive, government-supported programme specifically aimed at improving people's well-being.

A decadal plan

India needs to innovate a new policy path in order to meet the aspirations of its people in the decade ahead – there is no historical precedence for a democratic and economically open nation on how to deliver development to a billion-plus people in a manner that is healthy and sustainable. In successfully delivering a real-time response to the COVID-19 pandemic, India has proved that it is possible to deliver at scale in such an ambitious and comprehensive manner. To succeed in meeting its SDG targets, especially those related to population health and well-being, basic quality infrastructure, and gender equality, a similar concerted, pioneering, nation-wide effort would be the need of the hour.

The Geographic Insights Lab at Harvard: https://bit.ly/40WocFP

Tread a new path, one that prioritises social justice

Gilbert F. Houngbo

is Director-General of the International Labour Organization

May 1 is widely known as Labour Day, a day when we celebrate the contribution of workers worldwide. It is a moment for pride, celebration and hope.

Three years after the COVID-19 crisis, followed by inflation, conflict, and food and fuel supply shocks, we badly need this. But the promises of renewal made during the pandemic, of 'building back better', have so far not been delivered for the great majority of workers worldwide.

Reverse the hard reality, mistrust

Globally, real wages have fallen, poverty is rising, and inequality seems more entrenched than ever. Enterprises have been hard hit. Many could not cope with the cumulative effects of recent unexpected events. Small and micro-enterprises were particularly affected, and many have ceased operations.

People feel that the sacrifices they made to get through COVID-19 have not been recognised, let alone rewarded. Their voices are not being heard clearly enough. This, combined with a perceived lack of opportunities, has created a disturbing level of mistrust.

It does not have to be like this. We are still the masters of our fate. But if we are to shape a new, more stable, and equitable world, we must choose a different path. One that prioritises social justice.

I believe this is not only do-able but also essential for a sustainable and stable future. So, how do we get there?

First and foremost, our policies and actions must be human-centred, to allow people to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, economic security and equal opportunity. This approach is not new, it was set out and agreed in the aftermath of the Second World War, when the International Labour Organization's international membership signed the Declaration of Philadelphia, in 1944.

> The promises of renewal made after the COVID-19 pandemic — of 'building back better' — have not materialised or even touched the lives of a majority of workers across the world

Focusing on 'decent work'

This visionary document set out guiding principles for our economic and social systems, that they should not be turned exclusively to hitting specific growth rates or other statistical targets, but to address human needs and aspirations. This means focusing on inequality, poverty alleviation and core social protection. The most effective way to do this is by providing quality jobs so that people can support themselves and build their own futures – 'Decent Work for All', as Sustainable Development Goal 8 terms it.

It means realistically addressing the long-term structural transformations of our time; ensuring that new technology creates and supports employment; pro-actively facing the challenges of climate change and ensuring we offer the jobs, skills training and transition support necessary for workers and businesses to benefit from the new low-carbon era; treating demographic changes as a 'dividend' rather than a problem, with supporting action on skills, migration and social protection, to create more cohesive and resilient societies. We also need to reassess and refashion the architecture of our social and economic systems, so that they support this change of course towards social justice, rather than continuing to channel us into a policy 'doom loop' of inequality and instability. We must reinvigorate labour institutions and organisations so that social dialogue is effective and vigorous. We must review laws and regulations affecting the world of work, so that they are relevant and up-to-date and able to protect workers and support sustainable businesses.

Create a global platform

To make all this happen, we need to recommit to international cooperation and solidarity. We must enhance our efforts and create greater policy coherence, particularly within the multilateral system, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, calls it.

This is why we need a Global Coalition for Social Justice. This coalition will create a platform to bring together a broad range of international bodies and stakeholders. It will position social justice as the keystone of the global recovery, so that it is prioritised in national, regional and global policies and actions. In sum, it will ensure that our future is human-centred.

We have the chance to reshape the world we live in – economically, socially and environmentally. Let us take this opportunity and move forward to build the equitable and resilient societies that can underpin lasting peace and social justice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protest at Jantar Mantar

The ongoing protest of wrestlers, which includes some of our Olympic medal winners, highlights an inexplicable lack of political will among the top leaders of the country to take action when "sexual harassment" allegations are made by athletes or even other women. When the wrestlers protested for the first time this January, the government ought to have taken tangible actions against the complaints. Instead, the government went into 'silent mode'. If the intention is not to save a few bad apples, it is not clear why the government needs to shy away from making the findings of the "oversight committee" public. The registration of FIRs (Page 1, "Delhi Police register two FIRs in wrestlers' case", April 29) after the top court's much-needed intervention, should have offered a ray of hope to the wrestlers. It remains to be seen how long this protest is going to sustain its momentum, given the inertia of the government.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

The perception is that the police and a certain national party are trying to shield a certain individual for the simple reason that he belongs to the party in question (Page 1, " Kejriwal and Priyanka visit wrestlers, say govt. shielding WFI chief", April 30). It is upsetting that the Sports Minister and Prime Minister have not found time to listen to the wrestlers' grievances. What ever happened to '*Beti bachao, beti padhao*'?

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

The sad part is the response of the Indian Olympic Association chief P.T. Usha who is also a Member of Parliament. The perception is that she must have been obliged to the ruling party in the matter, as seems to be the case with Mary Kom.

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

The reluctance/refusal to file a first information report is denial of a key fundamental right under the Constitution. The fear of the wrestling champions that the police may frame weak charges against the accused with an aim to be acquitted is not unfounded. The saga reveals how powerful persons can subvert justice. The practice of appointing politicians to the highest posts in sport needs to be revisited.

Narendra Dani,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

The reticence on the part of statutory bodies such as the National Human Rights Commission of India and the National Commission for Women is both baffling and intriguing.

Ravi Mathur,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Is a 'tainted person' more important to the country than our Olympic medallists? The statement by P.T. Usha is disrespectful to the wrestlers. Not listening to the issues raised by the women athletes is what tarnishes the country's image, Ms. Usha.

Debasis Rath,
Puri, Odisha

It is disheartening to see young women, who are top medallists, break down in front of the cameras. There seems to be a deliberate attempt to wait till things cool down and the issue moves away from the front pages. Why are we, as a nation, so inert when young women cry for justice?

Rajesh Malik,
Bengaluru

Rabies control

I write this letter as the former head of the Department of Veterinary Public Health, Sree Venkateswara Veterinary University and FAO trainee on rabies control and vaccination at CDC, U.S. The reasons behind the 'dearth' of rabies vaccine are manifold, the prime reason being poor disease reporting, no laboratory diagnosis, and tardy strategies for prevention and control. Unfortunately, there are no tangible epidemiological studies. There are also meagre budgetary allocations made to the ID wards of many State hospitals. The success of any public health programme is reliant on political will. In the case of rabies, it is most often the poor who are victims. It is believed that unreported deaths due to rabies fall between 30,000 to 70,000 people. The WHO bulletin reports very few numbers due to gaps in the number of lab diagnosed deaths. The need is to establish a national commission on control of rabies. Intellectual infrastructure is available in preparing molecular epidemiological maps including control strategies and preparing an adequate quantity of vaccine. WHO would always be ready to back such a programme.

Dr. S. Umamaheswararao,
Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The erosion of hard-won labour rights

K.R. Shyam Sundar

is a Visiting Professor, XLRI, Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur

On May 1, 1886, Chicago in the United States became the major site of a demonstration by labour unions in support of an eight-hour workday. Police brutality and the victimisation of protesting workers by employees did not subdue the spirit of the protesters. To condemn anti-worker actions, labour anarchists called for a meeting on May 4, 1886, at the Haymarket Square. The peaceful meeting turned violent when a bomb exploded in the police ranks, and the police fired in response. The violent confrontation between the workers and the police became a symbol of the international struggle for workers' rights.

In 1889, the International Socialist Conference declared that, in commemoration of the Haymarket Square affair, May 1 would be an international holiday for labour, or May Day. In 1919, the International Labour Organization adopted the Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, which limited the number of working hours to eight a day and 48 hours a week. British India ratified the Convention on July 14, 1921. In the subsequent decades, the working class in various countries held several agitations to secure the right to an eight-hour working day.

Today, affluent countries in Europe such as Switzerland, Denmark, and the Netherlands have reduced the hours of work.

Regulating working hours

The theory of economic development anticipated that due largely to technological inventions and innovations, and with economic prosperity, people will have more leisure time to engage in sociocultural activities and that social welfare will improve. However, the itch to regulate or rather increase the number of working hours continues to persist. When COVID-19 hit India, several States amended the Factories Act, 1948, using the ordinance route. Recently, the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka governments also increased the number of working hours a day. Following opposition, the Tamil Nadu government put a hold on the amendment to the Factories Act on work hours.

Employers, especially in the garment and electronic industries, have clamoured for a flexible worktime regime so that they can manage export orders. In India, mainstream economists give the green signal to any initiative as long as it increases exports, even if it is at the cost of labour rights and human rights. They recommend emulating countries like Bangladesh (for garments) and Vietnam (for electronics). In 2022, according to the Global Right Index, launched by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Bangladesh ranked among the 10 worst countries where labour rights are not guaranteed. On a scale of 1 (best) to 5+ (worst) on the degree of respect for workers' rights, the ITUC rated Vietnam 4, which indicates systematic violation of labour rights. The comparator countries that neoliberals refer to are known for their poor record of labour rights.

Under the pretext of 'ease of doing business', regional governments offer many subsidies and exemptions to attract global and domestic capital. Apart from quantitative subsides, these global companies press for qualitative subsidies. Employers prefer no unions or weak ones in an industrially peaceful context where cheap and skilled workers are available. While India bears the cost of skilling the workers, multi-national corporations reap the benefits. This low road to development employed by most capitalistic companies leads to a race to the bottom. We see one State after another amending labour laws despite the fact that these companies do not help significantly reduce unemployment rates; they mostly provide high-skilled jobs, which leads to jobless growth.

The typical demand is to increase the number of hours of work a day while adhering to the eight-hour-day rule. For instance, Karnataka has increased the number of working hours a day, including rest periods, to 12, while complying with the weekly threshold of 48 hours. We are also moving from the three shifts regime to the two shifts regime. What is the economic reason for this demand? The worker spends about nine hours in the factory. The companies believe they can enhance production by maximising the workers' time at the factory. This would help them cut travelling allowance and transaction costs.

As far as the workers are concerned, they are likely to be away from home for at least 14 hours since some of them spend two hours travelling to work. On four successive days, workers may work for 12 hours and travel for two hours each day, which is daunting, even for younger workers. Eventually there is bound to be diminishing marginal productivity and employers may not benefit. As workers age, they become less efficient, highly fatigued and prone to industrial accidents.

Challenges

By extending the hours of work and ensuring job insecurity, we are setting the clock back to the 19th century in the name of ease of doing business. Due to lack of political unity as well as trade union cooperation, save a few instances, States are able to change labour laws without much opposition. The move of the Karnataka government close to May Day was disappointing. Companies employ Human Resources professionals who preach about a work-life balance, but don't say anything when workers are treated shabbily. The delay in the implementation of the new labour codes is hardly a concern for the Union government. Trade unions have a lot to be concerned about this May Day.

By extending the hours of work and ensuring job insecurity, we are setting the clock back in the name of ease of doing business

Looking to gain a toehold outside Telangana

The BRS is trying to expand its presence, but this promises to be a daunting task

STATE OF PLAY

B. Chandrasekhar
chandrashekar.bhalki@thehindu.co.in

Ever since the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) changed its name to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in an effort to shed its provincial character and chase national ambitions, its leadership has made no efforts to make a mark outside Telangana except in Maharashtra. It has also made some effort in Andhra Pradesh, a State against which the BRS leadership made unsavoury remarks during the movement to grant Telangana statehood.

With its slogan 'Ab Ki Baar, Kisan Sarkar (this is the time for farmers' rule)', the BRS leadership has decided to appeal primarily to the farming community in Maharashtra. It has held rallies in Nanded, Kandhar-Loha and Aurangabad to cement its image as a pro-farmer, pro-poor, and pro-Dalit political outfit. These rallies received an encouraging response, even if the crowds were mobilised, as is the norm for political rallies these days.

BRS sources said that the party is determined to first enter Maharashtra and garner support from the farming community, followed by women, Dalits and minorities, by explaining the welfare and development programmes that have been initiated for these sections in Telangana. The party has deployed publicity vehicles fitted with large LED screens in these areas, which play films on the benefits being enjoyed by these sections of society in Telangana.

The BRS is focused on the farming community as it believes that farmers are more organised best in Maharashtra

compared to Telangana's other neighbouring States. It was in Maharashtra where the Shetkari Sanghatana was formed by the legendary farmers' activist Sharad Joshi. The BRS leadership is busy roping in leaders associated with the Shetkari Sanghatana as well as popular leaders including former MLAs, former MPs and those who received sizeable support of the electorate in the last Assembly elections.

More than a dozen former MLAs, including a couple who worked as Ministers in the past, have formally joined the BRS so far. Leaders from the Panchayat Samiti level, including from the Nationalist Congress Party, the Shiv Sena, the Congress and a few from the BJP, have joined the BRS and are working in their areas to mobilise support for the new entrant into the State. BRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is said to be planning his fourth public meeting at Chandrapur soon, followed by one in the Konkan region and one at Thane outside Mumbai. The party, said a senior BRS leader, plans to contest the rural local bodies elections in these places.

The BRS leadership is planning to test its prospects in the elections to 25 Zilla Parishads and 284 Panchayat Samitis, which are due any time in Maharashtra. Party sources said the BRS did not enter the fray in the Karnataka Assembly elections as it did not want to split the anti-BJP vote. The BJP is the primary opponent of the BRS and even a couple of thousands of votes could make a huge difference in the three-cornered contest in the State, they reasoned.

The BRS also plans to open permanent offices in Nagpur and Aurangabad, form party committees at the village level from May 7 to June 7, and organise a massive farmers' rally before it gets down to serious campaigning in Telangana, where it aims to win Assembly elections for a third time in a row. To do this, it needs to weather the anti-incumbency that generally sets in when a party is in power for this long.

"Mr. Rao's repeated plea to the farming community in Maharashtra to lend support to the BRS for the upcoming Zilla Parishad elections is not purely because of his ambitions to expand politically. It is to create a feeling among the community that they too can call the shots in the political arena as the first step towards finding long-lasting solutions to problems associated with the agriculture sector, including marketing of farm produce and ensuring remunerative prices," said a senior leader holding a Cabinet-rank position in the Telangana government.

In spite of Mr. Rao's claims at the party's recent foundation day meeting that it is not winning the elections that is the issue but the number of seats, the party's performance on its home turf would hold the key for its national ambitions rather than its efforts to establish a footprint in Maharashtra. The party does not have an electoral base outside Telangana and has a daunting task ahead, especially if it is eyeing the general elections, which are only a year away.

It's boom time in the Indian Premier League

Rule changes and team tactics have made "power hitting" a mainstay of T20 cricket

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has captured the attention of the cricket-loving public in India and beyond like no other T20 tournament. With the best cricketers from the world, barring Pakistan, playing in the tournament and given the high-risk, high-reward nature of T20s, the yearly extravaganza has only continued to gain popularity.

With teams getting a better feel of the rhythm of the T20 game, which favours batsmen, and with new rule changes, the strike rates in the IPL have reached a peak during the 2023 season. In the 40 matches played in the IPL before April 30, 13,994 runs were scored in 1,568 overs for an overall run rate of 8.92, the highest in 16 seasons (**Chart 1**). This has broken the record run rate – 8.44 – set in the previous season.

One reason for this jump could be the use of "impact players" – teams can field an extra batsman/bowler as a one-time replacement. This has helped the situational use of batters in a line-up, and further accentuated risk-taking.

By its very nature, T20 favours a high-octane approach by batters. With the reduced number of overs – 20 as opposed to 50 in traditional limited overs cricket – and the number of batters in a line-up being intact with 11, the relative risk of losing wickets while trying to play big shots is much lower in this version of the game unlike ODIs. Shorter boundaries and generally batter-friendly wickets have also benefited batters over bowlers.

Over time, IPL teams have fielded more and more "power hitters" to address this aspect of the game. The nature of bowling has also changed dramatically with containment being on par with wicket-taking as an imperative for bowlers. This means that "impact batters" are more impactful than bowlers, which means that there is more risk to be taken and more rewards in terms of boundaries.

Spectators have not minded, though. T20s have increased the popularity of the game with the IPL acting as a major money-spinner for teams owning franchises in the league, besides the Board of Control of Cricket in India.

Chart 2 shows the boundaries scored (sixes and fours) per game in each IPL season. In 2023, there have been 44.88 boundaries and 15.55 sixes scored per game. Sixes constituted 34.7% of the total boundaries scored as well, the highest for any season. The chart also shows a near-uniform progression in the boundary-scoring rate over the years with only the 2009 season being an anomaly of sorts. This season was played in South Africa – a country which hosts relatively more bowling-friendly pitches.

South Africa's Faf du Plessis, who plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore, tops the chart with the most sixes (27) in the 2023 edition. Among batters who have faced at least 100 deliveries, West Indian Nicholas Pooran of the Lucknow Super Giants had the highest strike rate of 194.59.

It will take a while for Chris Gayle's record of 357 sixes overall in 141 innings in the IPL to be broken. Only Rohit Sharma (Mumbai Indians) with 250, M.S. Dhoni (Chennai Super Kings) with 237, Virat Kohli (RCB, 229) and David Warner (Delhi Capitals, 217) have more than 200 sixes overall, among active batters.

Gayle's West Indian compatriot, Andre Russell (Kolkata Knight Riders) tops the charts with a strike rate of 175.42, followed closely by Punjab Kings' English import, Liam Livingstone, with 162.92.

The revolution in "power hitting" in T20s has meant that the scoring rate in ODIs have also increased dramatically, but overall run rates (5.31 in 2023) are still low compared to T20s.

Raining sixes and fours

The charts and tables are based on data collated from ESPNcricinfo's Statsguru and the Indian Premier League's (IPL) official website

Chart 1 | The chart shows a season's overall run rate across the 16 seasons of the IPL

Chart 2 | The table shows the boundaries scored (sixes and fours) per game in each IPL season

Year	Sixes	Fours	Boundaries	Sixes as a % of boundaries	Sixes per match	Boundaries per match
2008	620	1,692	2,312	26.8%	10.51	39.19
2009	456	1,110	1,566	29.1%	7.73	26.54
2010	583	1,705	2,288	25.5%	9.88	38.78
2011	638	1,915	2,553	25.0%	8.74	34.97
2012	731	1,911	2,642	27.7%	9.75	35.23
2013	674	2,051	2,725	24.7%	8.99	36.33
2014	714	1,562	2,276	31.4%	12.10	38.58
2015	692	1,607	2,299	30.1%	11.73	38.97
2016	638	1,632	2,270	28.1%	10.81	38.47
2017	705	1,608	2,313	30.5%	11.95	39.20
2018	872	1,652	2,524	34.5%	14.78	42.78
2019	784	1,653	2,437	32.2%	13.29	41.31
2020	734	1,582	2,316	31.7%	12.44	39.25
2021	687	1,548	2,235	30.7%	11.64	37.88
2022	1,062	2,017	3,079	34.5%	14.55	42.18
2023	**622**	**1,112**	**1,734**	**35.9%**	**15.55**	**43.35**

Chart 3 | IPL record holders for most sixes, most fours and the best strike-rates

Most sixes	No. of sixes	Most fours	No. of fours	Highest strike rates	Strike rates
Chris Gayle	**357**	**Shikhar Dhawan**	**734**	**Andre Russell**	**175.42**
AB de Villiers	251	David Warner	621	Liam Livingstone	162.92
Rohit Sharma	250	Virat Kohli	609	Sunil Narine	160.68
MS Dhoni	237	Rohit Sharma	539	Nicholas Pooran	157.98
Virat Kohli	229	Suresh Raina	506	Glenn Maxwell	156.66

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 1, 1973

More foodgrains imports: Buffer stock depleted

New Delhi, April 30: The Government of India has decided to import six million to seven million tonnes of foodgrains more to tide over the fast deteriorating food situation in the country. According to Agriculture Ministry sources, the imports would consist mainly of wheat and milo. These imports are in addition to the two million tonnes of foodgrains already contracted for. Out of this, more than one million tonnes have arrived at various ports and the rest is on the way. According to the Ministry sources, the final details regarding the purchase of wheat and milo from various countries are being worked out. However, senior officials of the Ministry are understood to have discussed the manner of imports and the time of the purchase abroad during the last four days. It is also understood that the buffer stock of foodgrains has been depleted. The buffer stock, which stood at nine million tonnes in July 1972, came down to five million tonnes on October 4, 1972. The Government has been drawing heavily on the reserves because of the continuing drought conditions in 14 States. The imports have been necessitated by the failure of the emergency food production programme designed to produce an additional 15 million tonnes of foodgrains. In January 1873, the Union Agriculture Ministry had officially estimated that the programme had suffered a set-back and only 6.24 million tonnes of additional foodgrains would be produced.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 1, 1923

Khaddar in municipal boards

Lucknow, April 30: The Lucknow Municipal Board, sitting for nearly 8 hours, disposed of 92 resolutions, one of which ran as follows: "Whereas it is one of the functions of a Municipal Board to patronise and encourage indigenous industries, is it hereby resolved that henceforth all the uniforms supplied to municipal employees should, as far as possible, be made of Khaddar." The resolution was amended to read "Resolved that henceforth all uniforms except turbans supplied to municipal employees should be made of Khaddar" and passed without any opposition. A sum of money was budgeted then and there to purchase Khaddar.

From Page One

11 dead after inhaling toxic gas in Ludhiana

They include five members of one family: Kalpana, 16, and her brothers Abhay, 13, and Aryan, 10, and their parents, Kavilash and Varsha, who ran a clinic in the area.

Saurav Goyal, 35, the owner of the grocery store where the victims collapsed, died along with his wife, Preety, 31, and mother Kamlesh, 60. His elder brother Gaurav has been admitted to hospital. An accountant, Navneet Kumar, 39, and his wife, Neetu Devi, 37, also died. His brother Nitin is in hospital. One of the dead, a young man, is still unidentified.

PM marks 100th episode of *Mann Ki Baat*

"In the initial days, something felt different, there was an emptiness. I did not leave my home 50 years ago just to find one day that it would be difficult to contact the people of my own country. The very countrymen who are my everything ... I could not live separated from them. Mann Ki Baat gave me a solution to this challenge, a way to connect with the common man," he said.

The special programme was telecast live at the UN Headquarters in New York and all the Raj Bhavans. The BJP set up four lakh venues for people to hear the programme. Union Home Minister Amit Shah listened to it at a function at Vile Parle in Mumbai and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the BJP headquarters in Delhi. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar joined members of the Indian community in New Jersey to listen to the programme.

Mr. Modi said that when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he had many opportunities to meet and interact with the common people. But after coming to Delhi in 2014, he found that the nature of work was different. "...The responsibility is different, one is bound by circumstances, the rigours of security and time limits," he said.

In *Mann Ki Baat*, people from every corner of the country, people of all age groups joined in, whether it was about the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* campaign or the *Swachh Bharat* movement, love for khadi or for nature, Mr. Modi said.

Ensure quality education

On the special 100th episode on Sunday, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay was the special guest. She wanted to know how India planned to ensure quality education for all its people by 2030, now that it was the world's most populous country, and how it intended to put education and culture at the top of its agenda.

Replying to her question, the Prime Minister said: "Whether it is about education or culture, whether it is about its preservation or promotion, this has been an ancient tradition of India. The work that the country is doing in this direction today is really commendable. Be it the National Education Policy or the option of studying in a regional language, or technology integration in education, you will notice many such efforts."

Mr. Modi cited the efforts made by his government to check dropout rates, as well as some initiatives by individuals who have contributed to teaching those in need. In a year when India was presiding over the G-20, its resolve to enrich diverse global cultures along with education has become stronger, he added. The government made elaborate arrangements to mark the milestone, with the Culture Ministry deciding to bring out a series of Amar Chitra Katha comic books on the people mentioned in the radio programme.

229 more Indians reach home from war-torn Sudan

They were airlifted from the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah after being evacuated from Khartoum by buses; total number of Indians who have been brought back home from Sudan stands at 1,954

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India brought home another batch of 229 people on Sunday under its mission to evacuate its stranded nationals from violence-hit Sudan.

The fresh batch of evacuees arrived in Bengaluru, a day after 365 people returned from the African country to Delhi.

"#OperationKaveri One more flight brings back 229 passengers to Bengaluru," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar wrote on Twitter.

Under the evacuation mission, 754 people arrived in India in two batches on Friday.

The total number of Indians who have been brought back home from Sudan now stands at 1,954, according to official data.

The Indians were brought back from the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah, where India has set up a transit camp for the evacuees.

The first batch of 360 evacuees returned to New Delhi on Wednesday. The second batch of 246 Indian evacuees arrived in Mumbai in a C17 Globemaster aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Thursday.

Under "Operation Kaveri", India has been taking its citizens in buses from the conflict zones of Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to Jeddah in the IAF's heavy-lift transport aircraft and the Indian Navy's ships.

From Jeddah, the Indians are being brought back home in either commercial flight or IAF's aircraft.

India has set up separate control rooms in Jeddah and Port Sudan, and the Indian Embassy in Khartoum has been coordinating with them, besides being in touch with the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's Army and a paramilitary group that has reportedly left around 400 people dead.

Touching motherland: The group of 229 Indian nationals evacuated from war-torn Sudan under Operation Kaveri arriving in Bengaluru on Sunday. ANI

Rajnath to hand over patrol vessel, landing craft to Maldives

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hand over a fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the Maldives as India's "gift" during his visit to the island nation from May 1 to 3.

The Defence Ministry said this on Sunday, noting that Mr. Singh's visit to the Maldives will be an "important landmark" in building "strong bonds" of friendship between the two countries.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean region and the overall bilateral ties, including in the areas of defence and security, have been on an upward trajectory in the last few years.

'Neighbourhood First'

India's decision to provide the military platforms to the Maldives came amid China's persistent efforts to expand its overall influence in the region.

During his visit, Mr. Singh is scheduled to call on Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and hold talks with Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and Defence Minister Mariya Didi. Mr. Singh is also set to take stock of the implementation of various India-assisted projects in the Maldives and will interact with the Indian diaspora.

"India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) along with its 'Neighbourhood First' policy as well as Maldives' 'India First' policy seek to work together to jointly develop the capabilities within the Indian Ocean region," the Ministry said in a statement.

On Mr. Singh's talks with the Maldivian Defence and Foreign Ministers, it said the entire gamut of defence relations between the two countries will be reviewed.

IRDAI asks insurance firms to lay down social media rules

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked insurance companies to lay down social media guidelines for their employees to ensure that no unverified or confidential information related to the organisation is disseminated to the public through these platforms.

An organisation's reputation is closely linked to the behaviour of its employees, the IRDAI said, adding, "Social media should be used in a way that adds value to the organisation's business."

The Information and Cyber Security Guidelines, issued by the IRDAI to all insurers, have a specific section on 'Acceptable usage of social media' – which states that the employees should be refrained from disseminating any unverified and confidential information on "any Blogs/Chat forums/Discussion forums/Messenger sites/Social networking sites".

Media forums should not be used to report a complaint, it added.

The organisation's Information and Cyber Security Policy (ICSP) identifies responsibilities and establishes the goals for appropriate protection of the organisation's critical data. Implementing this policy shall reduce the risk of disclosure, modification, destruction, delay, or misuse of information assets, the regulator said.

Gujarat continues to witness deaths of manual scavengers, despite ban

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

From March 22 to April 26, 2023, as many as eight people have died while cleaning sewers in various parts of Gujarat, raising concerns about the continuing deaths of manual scavengers despite the fact that the practice has been declared illegal across the country.

In Rajkot, two died on March 22, in Dahej three died on April 3, later two died in Dholka on April 23 and one more death was reported from Tharad in north Gujarat on April 26.

All incidents occurred when the workers, without protective gears, entered the sewer lines to clean them manually and died of asphyxiation or inhaling the poisonous gas. And after the deaths, the police lodged cases of accidental deaths while in the Dahej incident, the case was lodged against the private contractor.

All the workers who died were hired by the private contractors who are roped in by the civic bodies or the government agencies to outsource the works related to maintenance of underground sewer lines.

In Gujarat, as per the figures shared by the State government in the Assembly recently, as many as 11 people died while cleaning sewer lines in last two years before these eight deaths that have been reported recently.

However, social activists working for the rights of the scavengers and community leaders from the Dalit outfits dispute the State government figures and claim that the real numbers are significantly higher.

"In Gujarat, more than 150 workers died while cleaning underground sewer lines or manhole. And all workers are either Dalits or tribals or in recent Rajkot case, a person from minority community," said Hitendra Pithadiya, chairman of Gujarat Congress SC department.

NHRC probe sought

After the surge in deaths, Gujarat Congress leader Hiren Banker has written a letter to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking a probe by the national rights body into the deaths of sanitation workers in Gujarat.

In his letter, he said despite the illegality of this practice and the existence of laws in place to prohibit it, manual scavenging continued to claim the lives of countless sanitation workers across the State. As per the government norms, if any worker is found dead while cleaning the sewer, ₹10 lakh compensation must be paid to the family of the deceased. However, according to Mr. Pithadiya, in case of "accidental deaths, compensation is not paid".

The Gujarat government's circulars state that in case of death of any sanitation worker while cleaning sewer line, action must be taken against the officials concerned but so far no officer has been held responsible despite as many as 95 deaths since the circulars were issued.

DGCA issues notice to CEO, safety chief of Air India

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a show-cause notice to Air India CEO Campbell Wilson for the airline's lapses in reporting the incident of a pilot allowing a woman friend inside the cockpit during a Dubai-Delhi flight on February 27, according to a senior official.

A show-cause notice has also been issued to the Tata Group-owned airline's head of safety, security and quality functions, Henry Donohoe.

A cabin crew member had filed a complaint with the DGCA about the pilot allowing a woman friend into the cockpit. The notice was issued on April 21 for not doing timely reporting of the incident to the DGCA, which is in violation of safety instructions. Both the executives have been given 15 days to respond to the notice, the official said.

Investments drop in Haryana amid rising concern over employment law

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Once one of the most sought-after investment destinations, particularly for skill-driven manufacturing sectors such as automobiles, Haryana seems to have lost some of its sheen with its share of new investment projects in the country tripping to a six-year low of 1.06% in 2022-23, down sharply from almost 3% in the year before.

Even as total investment outlays announced in the State fell 30% last year to ₹39,000-odd crore from nearly ₹56,000 crore in 2021-22, pushing it from the ninth-best State in terms of new investment projects to the 13th rank in 2022-23, manufacturing investments declined 60% to just about ₹9,500 crore.

The decline in fresh projects in the State coincides with its enactment of a law in early 2022 that reserved 75% of private sector jobs with monthly salaries up to ₹30,000 for local people. The law is in abeyance after being challenged judicially, but the suspense over its implementation remains a worry for investors.

Maruti Suzuki – one of the State's largest legacy investors, which announced a ₹18,000-crore project, Haryana's largest investment in 2021-22 – is now eyeing a ₹24,000-crore plant that will come up elsewhere, for instance.

Compared to 2021-22, when manufacturing, industrial parks, roadways and realty projects dominated the State's largest investments, realty projects dominate the outlays announced in 2022-23.

Real estate sector

"Last year, six of the top 10 projects announced in Haryana were in the real estate sector and the 32 new realty projects worth ₹17,986 crore accounted for 46% of the total fresh investment of ₹39,117.31 crore attracted by the State," Shashikant Hegde, director and CEO of investment monitoring firm Projects Today told *The Hindu*. Construction projects, incidentally, tend to create more jobs for lower-skilled migrant workers.

Mr. Hegde reckoned that the fall in fresh manufacturing investments in the State could have been partly driven by the mandatory local employment law and recent history of labour troubles for firms like Maruti.

"Moreover, the State has not made much effort to project itself as a progressive State, unlike its rivals like Uttar Pradesh, and the last investor summit [Happening Haryana] was held as far back as 2016," he pointed out.

Raaja Kanwar, chairman & managing director at Apollo International, said the State continues to be a top achiever in ease of doing business and is investing in improving infrastructure. But the limited industrial landscape in the belts of Gurugram, Manesar, and Faridabad, "which have reached their saturation points, may have contributed to the decline in investment", he noted.

Investment trends

The table shows the trend of new investments in Haryana. Investment plans in the State fell by 30% in FY23 and the State's share in India's new investment projects slipped to 1% from 3% in FY22

Year	Projects	Cost (₹crore)	Share in India (in %)
2021-22	244	55,694.95	2.89
2022-23	256	39,117.31	1.06

60 The % by which investments fell in manufacturing projects

8 The % by which investments dipped in irrigation projects

Kerala Story a product of Sangh Parivar's 'factory of lies', says Pinarayi Vijayan

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday said the upcoming movie *The Kerala Story* was a product of the Sangh Parivar's "factory of lies".

He said legal action would be taken against those involving themselves in anti-social activities.

"A glance at the trailer gives the impression that the movie was deliberately produced with the aim of communal polarisation and spreading hate propaganda against Kerala. By placing Kerala, the land of secularism, as the centre of religious extremism, it is repeating the Sangh Parivar's propaganda. Propaganda films and the othering of Muslims should be viewed in the context of various efforts made by the Sangh Parivar to gain an advantage in electoral politics in Kerala," Mr. Vijayan said in a Facebook post.

A still from the movie

The statement comes at a time when the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) and their youth organisations have all opposed the movie in a united voice.

'Love jihad'

Mr. Vijayan said the allegations of 'love *jihad*' were dismissed by Central investigating agencies, courts and even the Union Home Ministry. G. Kishan Reddy, then Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, had said in Parliament that there was no such thing as 'love *jihad*'.

"Yet in the film, this false allegation is made the main story premise only because of the eagerness to humiliate Kerala in front of the world," he said.

Mr. Vijayan said the Sangh Parivar was attempting to take forward its divisive politics using fake stories through such films as its methods, which were successful in other places, did not work in Kerala. It was spreading such myths without the support of any fact or evidence, he said.

Minister for Local Self-Governments M.B. Rajesh, in a separate statement, said the movie was part of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) crooked project to capture Kerala, for which thousands of crores of rupees was being spent.

The movie was an example of how cinema becomes a tool of fascism, he said.

Getting justice here will be bigger than winning an Asiad medal: Bajrang

The wrestlers are running out of time for Asian Games trials, but insist their fight is for a bigger cause; Samyukt Kisan Morcha extends support to the grapplers, calls for arrest of WFI chief

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

With time running out to get back to training and qualifying for the upcoming Asian Games, the protesting wrestlers admit the situation is less than ideal but insist their fight is for a bigger cause.

"We also want to get back to playing and training and get back to our routines. We have been doing only that for years and try to do whatever possible here also. But frankly, if we win justice here, I believe it will be bigger than any Asian Games medal," Bajrang Punia said on Sunday, even as their main target, WFI head and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, stepped up his own counter-attack and claims of conspiracy.

The Asian Games trials are expected in May and likely to be conducted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) ad-hoc committee formed to conduct WFI elections and enter names for international events.

Demand for justice: Farmers interacting with the protesting wrestlers, who are demanding the removal of WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, at Jantar Mantar on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The protest, however, shows no sign of ending anytime soon with the wrestlers insistent on Mr. Singh's arrest before taking any decision.

"He wants to give a political colour to this protest and turn it into a different direction but it all started after the Supreme Court directed filing of an FIR. He started giving statements, activated his supporters on social media, but justice will be done in the court, not the Internet," Mr. Punia declared.

Asked about the allegations of protesters being present from only one State, Vinesh Phogat retorted, "Nikhat Zareen and Sania Mirza are neither from Haryana nor wrestlers. Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra isn't either. And he says, we are playing political games when we don't even know how many MPs or MLAs are there in the country."

The wrestlers found support from the Samyukt Kisan Morcha which called for the immediate arrest of the WFI chief. Morcha leaders visited Jantar Mantar and interacted with the wrestlers on Sunday.

Protesters are toys in hands of Opposition, says WFI chief

Press Trust of India
GONDA

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Sunday praised Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav for not associating himself with the protest by the wrestlers, saying Mr. Yadav was "standing with the truth".

Mr. Singh is in the eye of a storm after the grapplers levelled sexual harassment charges against him and demanded registration of an FIR against him as well as his ouster from the WFI.

"Though there are political differences between us, Akhilesh knows the truth," he said. "If there are 10,000 wrestlers in Uttar Pradesh, out of them, 8,000 are from the Yadav community and they belong to the Samajwadi family, and hence know the truth," he added.

"If they [protesters] will go back [to their home] and sleep peacefully after my resignation, I am ready to resign," he said.

He added that the protesters were mere "toys" in the hands of the Opposition. "Their motive is political, not my resignation," he said, adding that he was yet to receive a copy of the FIR registered against him.

Disturbing silence over wrestlers' plea to prosecute police officers for FIR delay

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police may have escaped censure by the Supreme Court for the time being by registering FIRs on sexual harassment complaints raised by top women wrestlers, but there is a pall of silence about the victims' plea in court to prosecute police officers for delaying the action.

On April 25, the court said the sexual harassment allegations levelled by the wrestlers, including a minor, against BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh were "serious".

The wrestlers repeatedly sought the prosecution of the police officers who did not register an FIR on their complaints, which had forced them to approach the top court.

On April 26, the Delhi Police made an urgent mentioning in the court with a rather vague submission that it "felt" that "some preliminary inquiry" was necessary before registration of an FIR.

In a way, the police may have been simply trying to explain away the delay. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the police, did not clarify in court if the "preliminary inquiry" was intended to verify if there was a cognisable offence made out in the complaints of the women wrestlers or whether the police wanted to check the very veracity of the allegations of sexual abuse raised by the wrestlers, including the minor.

Vinesh Phogat (left) and Sakshi Malik during the protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

On April 28, the police, without offering any explanation, agreed to register the FIR. The conduct of the police officers in delaying the FIR and making a blank mention of a "preliminary inquiry" may have to be examined by the Supreme Court on the touchstone of its own Constitution Bench judgment in the *Lalita Kumari* case.

"Registration of FIR is mandatory under Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure if the information discloses commission of a cognisable offence and no preliminary inquiry is permissible in such a situation," the Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India P. Sathasivam (retd) had held in a unanimous verdict in November 2013.

The judgment had held that preliminary inquiry should only be conducted to ascertain whether a cognisable offence was disclosed in the complaint or not.

The Constitution Bench had held that police officers cannot avoid their duty of registering an FIR if a cognisable offence was disclosed in a complaint.

Senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, for the women wrestlers, had submitted that sexual harassment of a minor amounted to a cognisable offence. The court itself, on perusal of the women's complaints, had found them "serious" and called for an urgent hearing. The complaint of the minor was handed over to the court in a sealed cover.

The court had ordered the complaint to be resealed and kept confidential to protect her from threats.

'Future CM of Maharashtra will be from the NCP'

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Amid banners projecting Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and current Leader of the Opposition Ajit Pawar as the "future Chief Minister of Maharashtra", NCP State president Jayant Patil on Sunday said that "nearly everyone has accepted that the next Chief Minister of the State would be from his party".

"At present, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and the NCP are getting huge support from people across the State. The satisfaction is that the next Chief Minister of Maharashtra will be from the NCP. This is now accepted by almost everyone. That's how fast our party is moving forward... I am confident that under the leadership of [NCP chief] Sharad Pawar, the NCP will emerge as the largest party in the State in the future," said Mr. Patil.

Predictably, Mr. Patil's remark has sparked consternation among his MVA partners in the State – the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress.

Downplaying the NCP State president's remark, Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said that leaders often made such statements in a bid to galvanise the party workers.

Ahead of 2024 LS polls, CPI(M) to look at State-specific strategy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

At the end of the three-day meeting of the Central Committee, the highest decision-making body of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the party said in a statement that the main task before the 2024 Lok Sabha election was to "isolate and defeat" the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

To achieve this, the party would work with other secular Opposition parties, but said that the electoral arrangements must be State-specific, as the political situation varied across States.

The Central Committee has listed out six issues on which it will advise the Opposition to fight together – sharpening communal polarisation, poisonous campaigns of hate and violence, the Adani scam, misuse of Central agencies, assault on federalism and demanding caste census. The Opposition parties should also have common protest actions, taking up economic and livelihood issues, it said.

The statement, coming exactly a year before the Lok Sabha election, was silent on a possible anti-BJP electoral front. Instead, it stressed the need for a custom-made strategy for each State to suit its political peculiarities.

Sitaram Yechury

"In every State, depending on the concrete situation there, the secular Opposition must work out tactics to maximise the pooling of anti-BJP votes in the elections. As the situation varies from State to State, these arrangements will necessarily be State-specific," the CC statement said.

Amid varied voices in the Opposition on the demand for a probe by a Joint Parliament Committee (JPC) into allegations against the Adani Group, the CPI(M) reiterated its stand arguing that "truth" can be established only through the JPC.

The Trinamool Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) both have argued against the futility of a JPC, while the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) remain committed to the demand.

Congress targets 100th episode of *Mann ki Baat*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed the 100th episode of *Mann Ki Baat* on Sunday, the Congress took a dig at Mr. Modi for being *maun* [silent] on key issues such as China, Adani, increasing economic inequalities and the wrestlers' protest.

Just before the Prime Minister's monthly radio broadcast programme was aired, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh took to Twitter to target him.

"Today is FekuMaster Special. The 100th day of *Mann ki Baat* is being heralded with great fanfare. But it is *Maun ki Baat* on crucial issues like China, Adani, increasing economic inequalities, price rise of essential commodities, terror attacks in J&K, insults to women wrestlers, nonfulfilment of promises made to farmer organisations, corruption in so-called double-engine State governments like Karnataka, conmen with close links to BJP, etc.," he tweeted.

"IIM Rohtak does some doctored study on *Mann ki Baat*'s impacts while its Director's academic credentials have been questioned by the Ministry of Education itself," the Congress leader added.

Samyukt Kisan Morcha to hold protest in May-end on its pending demands

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), at a meeting of its general council on Sunday, demanded an extensive probe into the revelations by former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik on the handling of the Pulwama terrorist attack. The SKM also demanded action against Haryana Minister Sandeep Singh, who is facing allegations of sexual harassment.

Talking to presspersons after the meeting, the SKM leaders said protests and agitations would be held in all the States between May 26 and 31 in connection with the pending demands such as an MSP law, debt waiver, pension, comprehensive insurance scheme, removal of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra, and withdrawal of cases against farmers.

This will include leading large protest marches to all MPs and key political leaders in their home constituencies and submitting memorandum to them, warning them to immediately resolve all farmers demands, failing which they would face further protests, the leaders said.

Between August 1 and August 15, mass protests in coordination with workers unions and organisations would be held to put an end to sale of interest of farmers and workers to corporates by the government, they added.

The SKM also condemned the de-recognition of the National Federation of Postal Employees and the All India Postal Employees' Union by the Centre for supporting the farmers' struggle. Expressing solidarity with the unions, the SKM demanded that the de-recognition be withdrawn. The leaders said they looked forward to increased worker-peasant unity against the anti-farmer, anti-worker BJP government.

BSP gave proper representation to Muslims: Mayawati

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Sunday said that 'communal' and 'casteist' parties in Uttar Pradesh are getting sleepless nights as the BSP had giveb proper representation to Muslims in the urban body polls.

Ms. Mayawati appealed to people to pay more attention to their own interests and not get carried away by the conspiracies of the opponents.

"Politics has gathered momentum due to the BSP giving a proper representation to the Muslim community in the elections for the mayoral posts in 17 Municipal Corporations. Casteist and communal parties are having sleepless nights due to this," Ms. Mayawati said in a tweet.

"The BSP is an Ambedkarite party which follows the ideas and principles of *sarvajan hitay* and *sarvajan sukhay*," Ms. Mayawati added.

The elections for 14,684 posts across 760 urban local bodies will be held in two phases on May 4 and May 11.

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/LA/23-24/03 Date: 01.05.2023
The **Chief Engineer (Procurement)** invites e-Tender for procurement of 360 kV, 198 kV, 120 kV, 60 kV, 42 kV & 12 kV Class Polymer Type Lightning Arresters. Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents by registering themselves on the e-tendering portal (**https://wbtenders.gov.in**). Bid documents can be downloaded from **01.05.2023, 11:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted (online) up to **04:00 P.M., 29.05.2023**. Visit the Company's website **www.wbsetcl.in** for details.
ICA-T9024(3)/2023

कार्यालय जिला परिषद
(पंचायती राज प्रकोष्ठ) जैसलमेर
क्रमांक/पंसभ/लेखा/ई-निविदा/2023/4 दिनांकः 21.04.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना 01/2023-24
जिला जैसलमेर में नवगठित पंचायत समिति भणियाणा, फतेहगढ़ एवं नाचना में पंचायत समिति भवन (प्रति भवन लागत 200.00 लाख) के निर्माण कार्य हेतु इच्छुक संवेदकों से जीएसटी पंजीकृत एवं ''ए'' श्रेणी या उच्चतर श्रेणी में पंचायती राज विभाग, राजकीय विभाग एवं राजकीय उपक्रम में पंजीकृत फर्मों/संवेदकों से निर्माण कार्य हेतु ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट पोर्टल www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसकी विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।
NIB No. ZJM2324A0002, Bid No. ZJM2324WSOB00002 to 04
(दाताराम RAS)
मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी
डीआईपीआर/सी/6093/2023 जिला परिषद् जैसलमेर

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)
(An Autonomous Institution under Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and an Institution Deemed to be University)
जवाहरलाल नेहरू उन्नत वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान केंद्र (ज.ने.उ.वै.अ.के.)
(विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार के अधीन ऐक स्वायत्त संस्था सम विश्व विद्यालय संस्था)
जक्कूरु परिसर, बेंगलूरु - 560 064, भारत/Jakkur Post, Bengaluru - 560 064, INDIA
JNCASR
Advertisement No: JNC/AO/No.02/2023 Date : 25.04.2023
ADMISSIONS TO PGDMS PROGRAMME 2023
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research invites applications for one-year programme of Postgraduate Diploma in Materials Science.
Details of the programme, eligibility and application form are available online: **https://www.jncasr.ac.in/admission/admissions**
Last date for receipt of completed application form through email: **20.05.2023**
Sd/-
Academic Coordinator

Senior tribal leader from Chhattisgarh quits BJP

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Blaming political rivals in his own party for continuously hurting his dignity by making false allegations, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader from Chhattisgarh and former Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Nand Kumar Sai quit the party on Sunday.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Sai, a tribal leader from the Sarguja belt, said he was resigning from all party posts and primary membership of the party.

"From the beginning of the formation and existence of the Bharatiya Janata Party till today, I have fulfilled all the responsibilities and duties assigned to me by the party with full dedication and devotion. I express my gratitude to the party for this, but for the last few years, with the aim of tarnishing my image in the Bharatiya Janata Party, my political rivals of my own party have continuously hurt my dignity by making false allegations and other activities against me," the letter said.

He also posted a video that was later deleted. In it, Mr. Sai, who was the Leader of the Opposition in the first State Assembly, spoke about his contributions and struggles while being with the party. He claimed that he was instrumental in dislodging the Ajit Jogi-led Congress government in 2003, but was denied the Chief Minister's post as part of a conspiracy.

Back then, Mr. Sai was fielded against Jogi from the latter's stronghold of Marwahi and lost the polls despite the party winning the election. While Raman Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister, a position he went on to hold for the next 15 years, Mr. Sai was subsequently elected as an MP.

During the BJP rule in the State, Mr. Sai mostly remained in Delhi, out of State politics.

BJP State president Arun Sao confirmed Mr. Sai's resignation but added that efforts were being made to address misunderstandings, if any.

The Attara Kacheri building which housed the Secretariat before it was shifted to Vidhana Soudha. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Multi-member constituencies: a thing of the past

The first Assembly of Mysore in 1951 and the second Assembly elected in 1957 following the unification of the State had many two-member constituencies. This meant that a single constituency would have two members — one from the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe community and another from the general category.

In 1951, the Assembly had 19 such two-member constituencies. Two of the elected members were from the Scheduled Caste Federation (SCF) founded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. In 1957, the total strength of the Assembly was 179 and there were 29 two-member constituencies. In this election, a woman SC candidate, Rukminiyamma, was elected from Hosakote, one of the two-member constituencies. The system was abolished in 1961.

Longest tenures

The table lists the top five longest-serving Chief Ministers in Karnataka. Serving the State as the Chief Minister for two terms, Congress leader D. Devraj Urs ranks on the top of the list

Name	Total days as CM	Longest tenure	Longest tenure start date	Longest tenure end date
D. Devraj Urs	**2,966**	**5 years, 9 months, 11 days**	**20 March 1972**	**31 December 1977**
Ramakrishna Hegde	2,025	2 years, 7 months, 22 days	16 February 1986	8 October 1988
B.S. Yediyurappa	1,922	3 years, 2 months, 5 days	30 May 2008	4 August 2011
Siddaramaiah	1,830	5 years, 4 days	13 May 2013	17 May 2018
S.M. Krishna	1,691	4 years, 7 months, 17 days	11 October 1999	28 May 2004

Reserved constituencies in the State

The Karnataka Assembly has 36 and 15 seats reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, respectively. In Bengaluru Urban and Rural regions, Pulakeshinagar, C.V. Raman Nagar, Mahadevapura, Anekal, Devanahalli and Nagamangala are reserved constituencies. All of them are reserved for SCs.

For me, people of the country are like Lord Shiva. I accept being a snake garland on their neck.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

'Why kingmaker? We want to emerge as kings'

Former Prime Minister and Janata Dal(S) patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda denies that his party has any tacit understanding with the BJP or Congress; he argues that a regional party will prioritise Karnataka's interests, and that the JD(S) can be trusted to keep its poll promises; he has no reservations about an anti-BJP alliance in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election

INTERVIEW

H.D. Deve Gowda

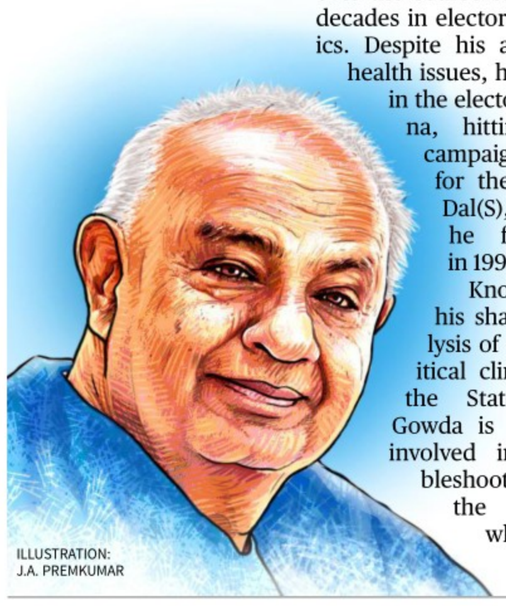


ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Sharath S. Srivatsa

The nonagenarian former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda is a veteran of several epic political battles over the course of his six decades in electoral politics. Despite his age and health issues, he is still in the electoral arena, hitting the campaign trail for the Janata Dal(S), which he founded in 1999.

Known for his sharp analysis of the political climate in the State, Mr. Gowda is actively involved in troubleshooting for the party, which is now led by his son and former Chief Minister, H.D. Kumaraswamy. He spoke to *The Hindu* on the Assembly election and the possible scenarios ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Excerpts:

Are there hopes of the JD(S) emerging as a kingmaker in this Assembly election again?

Why kingmaker? We want to emerge kings. There will not be a fractured mandate and there is no point in speaking about alliances. My honest assessment is that we will come to power with a working majority.

What is your response to the allegations that the JD(S) has a political understanding with both the BJP and the Congress?

There is no question of a tacit understanding with either the BJP or the Congress. We will go on our own with our programmes to all constituencies and speak about the programmes.

How do you rate the current BJP government and what is the JD(S) pitch for the Assembly election?

This is the worst government. There is anti-incumbency and there are corruption charges. H.D. Kumaraswamy has already implemented the ₹25,000 loan waiver scheme and successfully rehabilitated those who lost homes in Kodagu.

Through Pancharatna yatra, Mr. Kumaraswamy has announced new programmes. Confidence has been created in the minds of the people that he will stand by his promises and implement them. Trust is more important than the promise and people trust him. On the other hand, what has the BJP or the Congress done that is trustworthy?

Can the JD(S) poll promises be implemented?

Mr. Kumaraswamy has shown what is possible already and has shown maturity in implementing promises. The loan waiver was implemented despite the Congress insisting on continuing the so-called Bhagya schemes started by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and also the earlier loan waiver.

What is your take on reservation for Muslims and the Lingayat issue?

Reservation will be an election issue and voting will be on those lines. We have said that the Muslim reservation of 4% in the [Other Backward Class] OBC quota will be restored.

Muslims have full confidence in me. I do not want to speak or react on the Lingayat issue till the parliamentary election is over.

Do you think Karnataka poll results will set a trend for an anti-BJP alliance for 2024?

Karnataka has got only 28 Lok Sabha seats, and we should not think this is the whole of the issue. We can only form a small opinion on the trend after the results. There are efforts towards an alliance. Due to my health, I am not doing anything. But if others do, I will cooperate. I have no reservations about an anti-BJP alliance.

Is a regional party important for Karnataka?

Certainly. Both national parties have ditched Karnataka, and the State is the worst sufferer.

In the Cauvery issue, not a rupee was given by the Union government... Whether it was [led by] Vajpayee or Modi or Manmohan Singh. When I raised the Cauvery issue in the Lok Sabha, none from Karnataka in the other parties raised their voice.

At that point, the BJP was hoping to tie up with the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu. That is why they [Tamil Nadu] got all projects cleared and received Central assistance. The national parties are unable to raise their head in Tamil Nadu. When I was the Prime Minister, I made decisions on merit and not on political consideration.

Are the election narratives increasingly being reduced to personal attacks?

Election campaigns these days have lost their way. Personal attacks and unnecessary statements do not benefit anyone, nor do they serve any political purpose.

Modi claims credit for revival of toy industry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Claiming credit for the revival of the traditional toy industry in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi who addressed a poll convention in Channapatna, known for its wooden toys and lacquerware, on Sunday accused the Congress of destroying the industry in the country by allowing import of cheap toys.

Speaking about the industry's revival, he said, "Not only has the import of toys come down by 70%, exports have increased to similar quantum. We are now exporting toys worth thousands of crores, which is also helping the Channapatna toy artisans."

Shorn of silicon sheen in the rough and tumble of politics

K.V. Aditya Bhardwaj
BENGALURU

Bengaluru, which is known as the Silicon Valley of India and is the economic growth engine of the State, has mostly been in the news for all the wrong reasons over the past few years.

The city hit global headlines in 2022, when most parts of its Information Technology (IT) corridor were flooded, exposing its crumbling civic infrastructure. Coupled with nightmarish traffic and the bad condition of roads, this has led industry icons and ordinary citizens alike to bemoan the erosion of "Brand Bengaluru".

At the turn of the millennium, between 1995 and 2010, the city was regarded the most happening place, but a sense of fatigue and saturation seems to have set in now. This is evident in how even the State government has adopted a "Beyond Bengaluru" policy to woo investments, though with little success. The capital continues to be the favourite destination for investments in the State, and as a result, the city's population continues to balloon, stretching its infrastructure and natural resources to their limits.

Seats won

With 28 constituencies since 2008, Bengaluru has 12% of the total Assembly seats in the State. A look at the party-wise number of seats won in the district. In both 2013 and 2018, the Congress was ahead of the BJP in the city

Party	2008	2013	2018	2019 (after defections and bypolls)
BJP	17	12	11	15
Congress	10	13	15	12
JD(S)	1	3	2	1

Stalled civic polls

This situation has generated an intense debate around fixing the civic administration, even as it remains without an elected council for nearly three years now. MLAs – cutting across party lines – have stalled the civic polls till after the Assembly election. While the previous Congress government had proposed splitting the city corporation into at least three, the incumbent BJP retained a single corporation.

In the run-up to the election, as the Congress tries to put the BJP on the mat over the decay of both the city's facilities and its brand, the latter is arguing that it has invested the most in the city's transport infrastructure, including in its suburban rail system and the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway.

Bengaluru, with its 28 constituencies since delimitation in 2008, is the largest district in the State, contributing 12% of the seats in the Assembly, making it crucial for any party seeking to win. While the city has elected only BJP candidates for its three MP seats since 2008, the Congress has been slightly ahead of it in the Assembly election, except in 2008 when the BJP won 17 seats and the Congress only 10.

However, as four Bengaluru MLAs – three from the Congress and one from the Janata Dal(S) – defected to the BJP under "Operation Kamala" and then won their bypolls in 2019, the BJP's present tally of 15 seats from the city is higher than the Congress's 12.

Ironically, the ever-expanding metropolis has a political character defined by pro-incumbency for its MLAs. As many as 23 out of the 28 MLAs from the city have served for at least two consecutive terms now; seven of them have been elected for at least five consecutive terms.

'Adjustment politics'

MLAs who have won multiple terms have turned their constituencies into fiefdoms of sorts, with the organisation of Opposition parties often crumbling, leaving the elections bereft of credible challengers. This perpetuates the incumbent MLA and the odds of defeating him grow dimmer with every successful term, the electoral history of Bengaluru shows.

This is often attributed to the incumbent MLAs cutting across party lines forming a "cabal" and indulging in "adjustment politics", where they secure weak candidates from their parties against MLAs from other parties in return for favours. Though Union Home Minister Amit Shah has warned multiple times against this practice on his party's forums, the BJP's candidate selection in Bengaluru does not reflect any success in dismantling this system.

While it was speculated that at least four senior BJP MLAs in the city would be asked to retire, the BJP denied ticket only to Arvind Limbavali from Mahadevapura to counter the "severe anti-incumbency" against him over last year's floods. The party then ended up fielding his wife.

Given this scenario, there are only a handful of city seats that the BJP and Congress are trying to snatch from each other in this election. The JD(S), with just one seat at present, is a marginal player in Bengaluru.

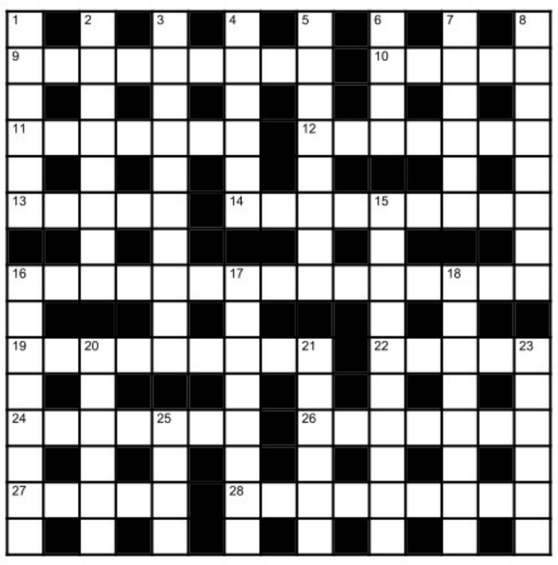
The Congress's internal surveys, sources say, indicated a steep anti-incumbency against the BJP. However, a senior Congress MLA confessed that as a result of neglecting the party organisation in several constituencies held by Opposition parties, they do not have the candidates to exploit this reported anti-incumbency and win the projected seats. The Congress and the JD(S) are also struggling to find credible challengers to their former MLAs who defected to the BJP.

TH CROSSWORD + 13853

(set by Gussalufz)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 In our easy bandying, my companions and I relax (2,3,4)
10 Jet's tail section occupied by losers, primarily (5)
11 Shower soap hit the roof! (7)
12 Growth is no lie, according to the Reverend (7)
13 Apply oil to clean electronic components (5)
14 Submerge clergyman, pulling right back, maximally splashing water (9)
16 Impetuously doing in knight for rook in hunger for praise (8,7)
19 After recession, "alternatively" managed section getting smaller (9)
22 Lady, back off right away, am engaged (5)
24 Some consider us newlyweds revolting, guaranteed! (7)
26 Vow broken by one jerk being stupid (7)
27 Cigarette's rejected after conclusion of pangram — setter missing a trick, maybe (5)
28 Ate bananas at this place in West Germany and suffered (9)

Down

1 Essayist starts to draft apology letter (6)
2 Taking regular notes as you preview DNA results in medicinal study (8)
3 Arrest flamboyant poet and nut (3,2,3,2)
4 Story of changing gender, switching sides (6)
5 One flies free of charge in Gussie's pet Nevada city, reportedly (8)
6 Strong beer sustains Belgium (4)
7 After dropping ill, hesitate getting leave (6)
8 Frame sleek shot with a clipped feel (8)
15 Coward, perhaps exceptionally wary during predicament (10)
16 Assume crumpled clothes mark a star's issues? (8)
17 Confirm news about trouble with stock index (4,4)
18 In creative rut — am mighty upset, like a child (8)
20 Commit another crime, pocketing a grand, or quit? (6)
21 On-screen controls on sailor's instrument (6)
23 Batteries with sulphurous acid between poles (6)
25 Dress toplessly and swing (4)

SUDOKU

4			8		2		1	
2	1							
	5			7	4			
		4	7		6		8	1
6								7
9	7		2		3	6		
			3	4			5	
							7	8
	4		9		8			3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5785 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

M	I	D	W	I	F	E	P	E	R	H	A	P	S
A	R	D	S	U	E	C	H
U	S	E	L	E	S	S	M	O	N	T	H	L	Y
G	A	A	A	P	E	A	L
H	I	M	A	L	A	Y	A	S	G	A	R	B	O
A	E	A	Y	C
M	O	D	E	M	S	T	A	N	D	B	A	C	K
A	T	M	E
P	O	S	T	H	A	S	T	E	D	I	N	A	R
I	A	A	N	A	E
T	I	M	O	R	O	R	D	E	R	L	I	E	S
S	P	I	A	A	I	R	U
T	E	L	E	S	M	S	B	E	D	R	O	L	L
O	E	H	T	L	G	B	T
P	I	D	G	I	N	S	E	N	E	M	I	E	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	1	8	6	9	7	5	4
9	8	6	5	4	7	1	2	3
4	5	7	1	2	3	8	6	9
2	9	3	4	5	1	6	7	8
7	6	8	9	3	2	4	1	5
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	2
6	7	2	3	8	4	5	9	1
5	1	4	2	9	6	3	8	7
8	3	9	7	1	5	2	4	6

FAITH

The help of Acharyas

Can there be a greater difficulty than spending our life span experiencing problems? The great acharya Periyavachan Pillai says that remaining as a foetus in the womb of a mother is the most difficult one. During the seventh month the foetus would cry to God to help come out for which act of kindness it assures that it would pray and worship the God. But after being born the child forgets completely and gets submerged into the worldly things.

Gurus and Acharyas not only help us weed out the impediments that stand in the way but also show how to practice the devotion with steadfastness. We have to keep our faculties and senses under control. Otherwise troubles may chase us. Sri Sita has revealed to us by herself through her behaviour. On hearing Mareecha simulating Rama's voice, Sita cried and asked Lakshmana to rush and see. When Lakshmana hesitated she grew furious in her agony of fear and doubt. She shouted that one brother (Bharatha) had sent them to forest and another brother (Lakshmana) turned wicked, wretch, traitor and imposter. These cruel words pierced the heart of Lakshmana.

The great devotee Sabari learned from Madhangarishi the practice of devotion which helped her attain Moksha and Sri Rama was a witness for the same.

Devoted people are considered to be always great irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Lord Krishna chose to stay in Vidhura's house. Villiputhur Azhwar says that Vidhura asked Krishna whether his house was the milk ocean or a banyan leaf or a house of four Vedas or a bed of Adhi Sesha. "What good deed I had done for you Lord to be in my hut", said Akkarakani Srinidhi Swamy in a discourse.

ASUNCION

Polls open in Paraguay election, with Taiwan ties in the balance

AFP

Voting stations opened on Sunday across Paraguay as its citizens pick a President they hope will tackle endemic corruption, rising crime and economic inequality. The election will potentially impact the country's future ties with Taiwan. Some 4.8 million of the country's 7.5 million inhabitants are eligible to vote. AFP

MANILA

Philippines President travels to U.S. to bolster ties amid China tensions

REUTERS

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos left Manila on Sunday for a visit to the U.S. as he seeks to bolster ties with Washington amid growing tensions with China in the disputed South China Sea. His visit comes as the U.S. had called upon Beijing to stop "provocative and unsafe conduct" in the disputed waterway. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran MPs remove Industry Minister over rising prices, economy crunch

AP

Iran's Parliament voted in an impeachment session to remove the Industry Minister amid soaring prices as the Islamic republic's economy reels under the pressure of international sanctions. Reza Fatemi Amin failed to garner enough support in a vote of confidence that saw 162 MPs vote in favour of his removal and 102 against. AFP

TASHKENT

Citizens of Uzbekistan vote on reforms to strengthen President

AP

Voters in Uzbekistan went to polls in a constitutional referendum that could allow President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to remain in power until 2040. He insists the overhaul of the constitution will improve governance and quality of life in the landlocked country of 35 million people, whose rights have long been heavily restricted. AFP

Sudan 'truce' extended for 72 more hours as battles rage

Sudan's airspace to remain closed until May 13, with the exception of aid and evacuation flights; more than 500 people killed; former PM warns of situation deteriorating into 'civil war'

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

Helping hand: Evacuees board a tugboat at Port Sudan on Sunday during a rescue operation carried out by the Saudi Navy. AFP

Rival Sudanese forces on Sunday announced the extension of a truce they have largely violated, as warplanes roared overhead and fighting continued on the ground in Sudan's capital.

Deadly hostilities between the Army and heavily armed paramilitaries in Khartoum and other parts of the country have entered a third week.

The latest widely breached ceasefire was scheduled to formally expire at midnight (3.30 a.m. IST) before the rival forces announced an extension for 72 hours that the Sudanese Army said came due to "U.S. and Saudi mediation".

More than 500 people have been killed and tens of thousands of people forced to leave their homes for safer locations within the country or abroad since battles erupted on April 15. The fighting pits the forces of Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan against his ex-deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The civil aviation authority on Sunday announced Sudan's airspace would remain closed until May 13, with the exception of aid and evacuation flights.

The police said Central Reserve had arrested 316 "rebels", a reference to the RSF, which did not confirm the information and had previously warned police against joining the fight.

Sudan's former prime minister Abdalla Hamdok warned against the conflict's deteriorating into one of the world's worst civil wars.

'Four killed in Ukrainian strike on Russian village'

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

A pre-dawn Ukrainian strike on a Russian border village killed four persons and wounded two others, the Governor of Russia's western Bryansk region said on Sunday.

The strike on the village of Suzemka, which lies a dozen kilometres from the Ukrainian border, came the night after a suspected drone hit a fuel depot in Moscow-annexed Crimea.

Owl-eyed: Ukrainian soldiers with night vision goggles during a ceremony marking Border Guards Day in Kyiv on Sunday. AFP

Wagner's warning

Meanwhile, the head of Russian mercenary group Wagner, Yevgeny Prigozhin, warned that a Ukrainian counteroffensive could turn into a "tragedy" for Russia and complained that his fighters lacked ammunition.

For months Wagner has spearheaded the Russian attack on Bakhmut, the east Ukrainian town at the epicentre of fighting.

Mr. Prigozhin is an ally of President Vladimir Putin but as head of the private military group has been involved in a power struggle with the Defence Ministry.

"We (Wagner) have only 10-15% of the shells that we need," he said, blaming the leadership of the Russian army.

Mr. Prigozhin said he expected a Ukrainian counterattack in mid-May. "This counteroffensive could become a tragedy for our country," he said.

Russian Army replaces its commander of logistics

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The Russian Army on Sunday replaced its highest-ranking General in charge of logistics ahead of an expected counter-offensive by Kyiv.

The announcement followed days of rumours about the sacking of Colonel General Mikhail Mizintsev, under British sanctions for his role in the siege of the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, which Russian troops captured a year ago.

Alexei Kuzmenkov – a former official from the National Guard – had replaced Gen. Mizintsev.

The statement did not say why Gen. Mizintsev was replaced after just seven months on the job.

Pak. shouldn't 'appease' West, Minister tells PM in leaked document

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

U.S. intelligence documents have been leaked on the Discord messaging platform revealing conversations between Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his junior Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar on foreign policy matters, according to a media report on Sunday.

Word of caution

In one internal memo titled 'Pakistan's Difficult Choices', parts of which were published by the *Washington Post* on Sunday, Ms. Khar cautions that Pakistan should avoid giving the impression of "appeasing" the West, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

The Foreign Minister warns that the country can no longer attempt to maintain a middle ground between regional neighbour China and the U.S.

In the memo, Ms. Khar argues that preserving Pakistan's partnership with the U.S. would ultimately sacrifice the full benefits of its "real strategic" partnership with China.

U.S. leak

The undated document does not specify how the U.S. obtained access to Ms. Khar's memo, a report published by the *Washington Post* revealed.

The leak of U.S. intelligence documents, posted largely on social media websites, was believed to be the most serious security breach since more than 7,00,000 documents, videos, and diplomatic cables appeared on the WikiLeaks website in 2010.

The episode embarrassed the U.S. by revealing its spying on allies, including Pakistan, and the purported military vulnerabilities of Ukraine.

Six school students shot at during house party in Mississippi

Associated Press
BAY ST. LOUIS/SEATTLE

In another incident, two men were killed and a third person wounded during a shooting in a Seattle park

Six high school students were injured after gunfire erupted at a house party in southern Mississippi in the U.S., according to a news report.

The *Biloxi Sun Herald* reported early on Sunday that the shootings happened overnight on Saturday in Bay St. Louis, about 46 kilometres west of Biloxi.

All six students suffered gunshot wounds and were taken to area hospitals. Two were in serious condition.

It was not immediately clear how many shots were fired or if anyone had been arrested, the *Sun Herald* reported.

Seattle shooting

In a separate incident, two men were killed and a third person was wounded during a shooting in a Seattle park Saturday night.

The police responded to a report of a shooting at Cal Anderson Park around 10:30 p.m., the Seattle Police Department said in a statement.

Officers found three men with gunshot wounds and provided first aid until Seattle Fire Department personnel arrived. One man succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

Two other victims were transported from the park in the Capitol Hill neighborhood to Harborview Medical Center, where the second man died.

The third shooting victim was listed in critical condition, the police said.

In a first since Syria war, Iran's Ebrahim Raisi to visit Damascus on Wednesday

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi will travel to Damascus on Wednesday, Iranian state media reported, touting a "very important" two-day visit against the backdrop of increased regional engagement with the Syrian regime.

"Dr Raisi's trip to Damascus next Wednesday is a very important trip due to the changes and developments that are taking place in the region," IRNA state news agency on Sunday quoted Iran's ambassador to Syria, Hossein Akbari, as saying.

Two-day trip

According to IRNA, Mr. Raisi will lead a "high economic-political delegation" on his two-day trip at the official invitation of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Tehran, a major ally of Mr. Assad, has supported his government during Syria's 12-year-old conflict, but no Iranian President has visited there since the war started in 2011.

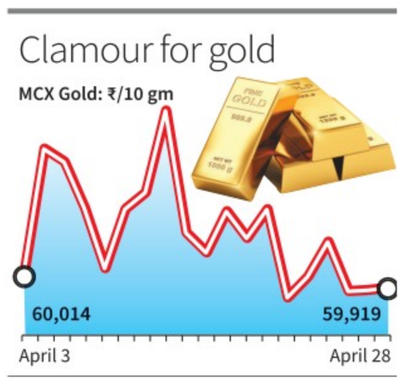
The visit comes weeks after a landmark rapprochement agreement between regional rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia, which has also underlined greater Arab willingness to re-engage with the once isolated Syrian government.

The last Iranian President to visit Syria was Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in September 2010.

Mr. Assad last visited Tehran in May, in his second reported trip to the Islamic republic since the war began.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last year hailed the relationship between Tehran and Damascus as "vital for both countries", saying it should be strengthened "as much as possible".

Tehran has given financial and military support to the Assad regime during the war.



Cooling off after being overbought

PRECIOUSMETALS

B. Krishnakumar

After a strong performance in March, precious metals took a breather last month. The Comex gold price scaled a 52-week high in mid-April but closed marginally lower at the end of the month. The Comex gold price edged past the psychological $2,000-mark in April but has recently receded below this level.

In the month of April, comex gold gained 0.65% to end the month at $1,999.1 per ounce. Comex silver posted a healthier gain of 4.4% to settle at $25.23 at the end of April.

Mirroring the trend in the global markets, MCX gold posted a marginal gain of 0.5% to settle at ₹59,919 per 10 grams. MCX silver closed 3.1% higher to end April at ₹75,419 per kilogram.

The strength in Comex gold price in the early part of April helped the yellow metal go well beyond the target zone of $2,025-$2,030 mentioned in April. Comex gold touched a high of $2,063 on April 13 and has since cooled off a bit.

Mean reversion

The recent cool off in price suggests that the gold price is in the midst of a mean-reversion move. The strong rise in the recent weeks had pushed the price into an overbought zone and the recent price action suggests that a cool-off phase is in progress.

The short-term outlook for comex gold is moderately negative and the price could drop to $1,940-$1,950 zone. The medium-term outlook remains positive, and the price could resume the uptrend on the completion of the current cool-off phase. Similar to gold, Comex silver too hit the target zone of $25.5-$26 mentioned last month. After recording a high of $26.2 on April 14, the price of Comex silver has pulled back in the last couple of weeks. The recent cool off in silver is likely to continue and the price could drop to the support zone at $23.5-$24. This view would be invalidated if the price moves above $26.5.

In the domestic market, MCX gold achieved the target of ₹60,400-$61,000 mentioned last month. The recent price action suggests that MCX gold price could remain subdued in the next few weeks. A drop to ₹57,600-58,000 appears likely. A move above ₹61,500 would invalidate this view.

Silver may slip

MCX silver too hit the target zone of ₹72,000-72,500 mentioned last month. The short-term outlook for silver is mildly negative and the price could drop to ₹72,500-73,000 zone. A move above ₹79,000 would negate the case for a fall to ₹72,500-73,000 zone.

To summarise, the precious metals have reached an overbought zone and a mean reversion or cool off can occur. The overall trend, however, remains positive.

The uptrend is likely to resume on the completion of the anticipated short-term cool off in price.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. The views and opinion featured in this column is based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Why homemakers should secure dependents' future

Since their contribution is not counterbalanced with compensation, homemakers have been left out of the protection umbrella of independent term insurance until recently

TERM PLAN

Rhishabh Garg

Financial empowerment of women quite often only accounts for women in the workforce who earn a living. However, this leaves out a major segment of the population, especially in a country like India - the homemakers.

Data suggest that when it comes to making financial decisions, women still tend to take a backseat. But this difference is starkly visible in the case of homemakers, whose invaluable contribution towards home and family remains intangible and unquantifiable monetarily.

Possibly, this was the reason that traditionally homemakers were dependent on the working spouse's existing term insurance policy and earnings despite their substantial contribution. But as the insurance industry continues to evolve and become more inclusive, innovative policies and products are being devised to effectively cater to every segment, including homemakers.

Taking cognisance of this gap, independent term policies were unveiled for homemakers that came as a breakthrough for the industry. With no dependency on spouse's policy or earnings, women could now independently make the prudent financial decision of securing their dependents.

Independent term plan

India is home to more than 160 million homemakers whose invaluable contribution often goes unnoticed and unrealised. Since this contribution is not counterbalanced with compensation, homemakers were left out of the protection umbrella of independent term insurance until lately. They were dependent on their spouse's monetary standing to secure a life cover. In addition, as the income multiplier was based on the husband's annual income, they were only covered for approximately 50% of the sum assured.

For instance, if the yearly income of the spouse is ₹6 lakh and the income multiplier is 15 times, then the total eligible cover becomes ₹80 lakh.

Now, if the spouse takes away the cover of ₹70 lakh, this will leave the wife with a mere ₹10 lakh cover. Moreover, it is also worth noting that term insurance typically starts at ₹50 lakh of coverage so this shared coverage might not be enough.

> It is integral to be mindful when determining an adequate coverage amount

However, with evolving industry norms, the value of a homemaker was recognised with an independent term plan that allows them to secure their dependents without any dependency on spouse. Homemakers can now opt for term insurance regardless of whether their husband has a term policy. Moreover, the cover amount in these policies is considerable, up to ₹1 crore, which can be adequate to cover any dependents – children, or the elderly.

Know the criteria

The eligibility criterion is quite flexible for these plans to increase their accessibility. This plan is available to homemakers between the ages of 18 and 50. However, it comes with two primary prerequisites – the overall household income should be a minimum of ₹5 lakh, and the homemaker should be a graduate. Additionally, some insurers have now come up with plans for homemakers who have passed 10th or 12th.

Securing the future

To safeguard the future of the dependents, it is integral to be mindful when determining an adequate coverage amount of the independent term plans for homemakers. This requires a thorough understanding of the financial impact the homemaker's absence would have on the family.

However, with an insurance cover, homemakers can now take comfort in knowing that they are leaving behind a financial safety net for their dependents. In addition, this amount can aid in fulfilling long-term obligations, such as funding their children's education and marriage, as well as caring for elderly parents.

To conclude, homemakers are the engine that ensures the smooth functioning of the family. Though their effort remains unaccounted for in financial terms, a policy like independent term insurance is a monumental step towards recognising their contribution.

(The author is Head - Term Insurance, Policybazaar.com)

Market timing, an active decision

THINKINVESTOR

The fear of a falling market may compel you to pause your SIPs. But you must decide when to restart, which is an active decision

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

A recent report on a website focussed on mutual fund investing suggests that your terminal wealth could be lower if you pause your systematic investment plan (SIP) during volatile markets. In this article, we discuss why it is optimal to continue your SIP through the time horizon for a life goal. We also discuss why the process is behaviourally more optimal for passive funds than for active funds.

Distancing regret

Market timing is an active decision – you must decide when to invest and when to exit the investment. Such active decisions are required for your trading portfolio, also called the satellite portfolio. Market timing could be implied while managing SIPs in your goal-based portfolio, also called the core portfolio. Why? The fear of a falling market may compel you to pause your SIPs. But you must decide when to restart your SIPs, and that is an active decision. What if you pause your SIP and the market moves up or restart your SIP and the market declines further? You could regret your decision to time the market.

The advantage with SIPs is that you can distance yourself from the investment decision after you set up the process. This is because the monthly SIP is set up as an automatic debit to your preferred bank account. Therefore, the regret associated with an investment decision when the market declines is less when you use SIPs than when you manually invest each month in the same fund.

Market timing must not be part of your investment decision for the core portfolio. Therefore, staying invested through the time horizon for a life goal is an optimal way for accumulating wealth to achieve a life goal. But that would be appropriate when you set up an SIP on a passive investment such as an index fund or an exchange-traded fund (ETF). The objective of investing in an active fund is to generate alpha returns – the excess returns that a fund generates over its benchmark. Therefore, an SIP on an active fund must be set up for one year at a time. That way, you will be able to review your investment in the fund and decide whether to renew the SIP, switch to another active fund or move to a passive fund. But that would be an active decision. You must, therefore, weigh the likely experience of pain and regret if your active decision were to turn wrong against the potential benefit of earning alpha returns.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.35	8.00	7.20
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.15	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.41	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.15	7.25	7.35	6.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.51	6.85	7.25	7.50
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.50	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.25	7.75	7.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.20	6.80	7.00	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.00	7.25	7.25	5.85
CSB Bank	7.50	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.00	7.25	7.60	7.60
HDFC Bank	7.10	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.75	6.75	7.75	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.75	7.50	7.75	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.10	7.10	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.30	7.00	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.20	7.00	6.50	6.20
SBM Bank India	7.75	6.40	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.60	6.50	6.00
TMB	8.00	7.25	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.05	6.75	6.75	6.50
Bank of India	7.15	6.00	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.35	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.25	7.00	6.80	6.70
Indian Bank	7.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.25	6.50	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.80	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.10	6.40	6.25	6.25
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.30	6.30	7.30	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.10	6.75	6.25	6.25
Foreign Banks				
Deutsche Bank	7.75	7.00	7.75	7.25
HSBC Bank	7.50	4.00	7.00	6.00

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India*	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.05	8.50-10.05
Bank of Baroda	9.15-10.65	9.15-10.65	9.15-10.90
Union Bank of India	9.00-10.75	9.00-10.95	9.00-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.65-9.60	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50
Bank of India	8.65-10.75	8.65-10.75	8.65-10.75
Canara Bank	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95
Indian Overseas Bank	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards
ICICI Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
Axis Bank	8.75-12.70	8.75-12.70	8.75-9.15
HSBC Bank	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards
South Indian Bank	9.85-12.60	9.85-12.60	9.85-12.60
Karur Vysya Bank	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13
Karnataka Bank	9.26-10.43	9.26-10.43	9.26-10.53
Federal Bank	10.15-10.20	10.20-10.25	10.25-10.30
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	9.10-9.60	9.10-9.60	9.10-9.60
Bandhan Bank	9.15-15.00	9.15-13.32	9.15-13.32
RBL Bank	9.15-11.55	9.10-11.30	9.10-11.30
City Union Bank	12.25 - 15.25	12.75 - 15.25	13.25 - 15.25
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.60-10.35	8.60-10.55	8.60-10.75
HDFC Ltd.	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.60	8.50-10.70
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.70 onwards	8.70 onwards	8.70 onwards
Tata Capital	9.15 onwards	9.15 onwards	9.15 onwards
PNB Housing Finance	8.75-14.50	8.75-13.00	8.75-11.35
GIC Housing Finance	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards	8.45 onwards
Repco Home Finance	9.60 onwards	9.60 onwards	9.60 onwards
Aditya Birla Capital	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75
ICICI Home Finance	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards
Godrej Housing Finance	8.64 onwards	8.64 onwards	8.64 onwards

**Concession of 0.10% on the applicable interest rates for Shaurya and Shaurya Flexi Home Loans*

Rates as on April 26 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

NOT BIDDING ADIEU, YET

Fleming asserts Dhoni has not said anything about retirement

Many think that this could be Chennai Super Kings skipper's Dhoni's last IPL season and it's apparent the way his fans throng the stadiums. When asked if it was the case, the four-time champion's head coach Stephen Fleming had a simple, deadpan response: "No, he hasn't indicated anything (to him)."

HEART-BREAK

'There were probably a few areas where we let ourselves down'

Delhi Capitals all-rounder Mitchell Marsh was disappointed after the team lost to Sunrisers. "It was very disappointing to lose that one," admitted Marsh during the post-match press-conference. "We always talk about small margins in T20 cricket and there were probably a few areas where we let ourselves down."

CANDID

When you break a partnership, often the floodgates open: Badani

Sunrisers batting coach Hemang Badani was candid in admitting that the team was worried during Capitals' second-wicket stand. "We were worried seeing them batting at a canter. When you are able to break a partnership, often the floodgates open and that was one of those things that happened tonight," said the former Test and ODI cricketer.

SWEEPING SUCCESS

Conway joint third-fastest to 5,000 runs in T20 cricket

CSK batter Devon Conway completed 5,000 runs in T20 cricket during the game against PBKS on Sunday. He is the third-fastest to reach the mark in the shortest format in 144 innings. The fastest is Chris Gayle (132 innings), followed by K.L. Rahul (143). Shaun Marsh and Babar Azam have also reached the mark in 144 innings.

Prabhsimran, Livingstone do the star turn for PBKS

The two batters' big hitting at either end of the innings helps Dhawan's side prevail over Dhoni's men in a nail-biting contest and pull off a four-wicket victory

IPL-16

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Prabhsimran Singh (42, 24b, 4x4, 2x6) and Liam Livingstone's (40, 24b, 1x4, 4x6) big hitting at either end of the innings helped Punjab Kings beat Chennai Super Kings by four wickets off the last ball in a nail-biting contest here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday.

Needing nine off the 20th, Matheesha Pathirana bowled a near-perfect over delivering his yorkers and not conceding a boundary.

Raza holds his nerve

However, Sikandar Raza held his nerve by running two braces and a three off the final delivery to give Punjab its fifth win.

Chasing 201 for victory, PBKS was off to a flyer with Prabhsimran and skipper Shikhar Dhawan adding 50 in just 4.2 overs before the latter was dismissed.

From 81 for one in the ninth over, Super Kings pulled things back when Ravindra Jadeja picked up two wickets. The Punjab side was in a tricky situation at 129 for three after 15 overs, but Livingstone turned the match on its head when he launched Tushar Desphande for three huge sixes in the 16th over.

Deshpande conceded 24 in the 16th over and 13 in the 19th as PBKS scored 72 off the last five overs to pull off a memorable win.

Earlier, Devon Conway continued his dream run as he slammed an unbeaten 92 (52b, 16x4, 1x6) – his fifth half-century this season – to help the Super Kings post 200 for four.

Electing to bat, Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad got the home team off to a blazing start, adding 86 runs for the opening wicket.

The southpaw started with two boundaries off Kagiso Rabada and then took on Sam Curran, hitting the left-arm pacer over mid-on for two consecutive fours.

After Gaikwad was stumped off Sikandar Raza's bowling, Shivam Dube chipped in with a cameo (28, 17b, 1x4, 2x6).

Conway was outstanding against the spinners at the other end, using his feet to hit through the off-side. The Kiwi opener got to his fifty in style with a reverse sweep off Raza.

However, in the last five overs, Punjab Kings did well with some tight bowling as Moeen Ali and Ravindra Jadeja struggled to find the boundaries.

Much to the delight of the fans, M.S. Dhoni finished the innings in style when he hit Curran for two sixes over deep-point and midwicket to get the home team to 200.

But, it was not enough on the day.

Shining stars: Prabhsimran and Livingstone's assault eclipsed Conway's brilliant knock as Punjab Kings reached home at the very end. M. VEDHAN

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Ruturaj Gaikwad st. Jitesh b Raza 37 *(31b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Devon Conway (not out) 92 *(52b, 16x4, 1x6)*, Shivam Dube c Shahrukh b Arshdeep 28 *(17b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Moeen Ali st. Jitesh b Chahar 10 *(6b, 2x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Livingstone b Curran 12 *(10b)*, M.S. Dhoni (not out) 13 *(4b, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 200.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-86 (Ruturaj, 9.4 overs), 2-130 (Dube, 13.6), 3-158 (Ali, 16.1), 4-185 (Jadeja, 19.1).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING
Arshdeep 4-0-37-1, Rabada 4-0-34-0, Curran 4-0-46-1, Rahul Chahar 4-0-35-1, Raza 3-0-31-1, Livingstone 1-0-16-0.

PUNJAB KINGS
Prabhsimran Singh **(Impact Player in place of Rabada)** st Dhoni b Jadeja 42 *(24b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Shikhar Dhawan c Pathirana b Deshpande 28 *(15b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Atharva Taide c & b Jadeja 13 *(17b)*, Liam Livingstone c Gaikwad b Deshpande 40 *(24b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Sam Curran b Pathirana 29 *(20b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Jitesh Sharma c sub (Shaik Rasheed) b Deshpande 21 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Shahrukh Khan (not out) 2 *(3b)*, Sikandar Raza (not out) 13 *(7b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-7, w-6): 13; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 201.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-50 (Shikhar, 4.2), 2-81 (Prabhsimran, 8.3), 3-94 (Taide, 10.2), 4-151 (Livingstone, 15.5), 5-170 (Curran, 17.1), 6-186 (Jitesh, 18.4).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Akash Singh **(Impact Player in place of Rayudu)** 3-0-35-0, Deshpande 4-0-49-3, Theekshana 4-0-36-0, Jadeja 4-0-32-2, Moeen Ali 1-0-10-0, Pathirana 4-0-32-1.

Toss: Super Kings; **PoM:** Conway

Punjab Kings won by four wickets.

Next assignment

CSK: May 3 vs. **LSG**
Lucknow, 3.30 p.m.

PBKS: May 3 vs. **MI**
Mohali, 7.30 p.m.

David's late assault takes MI home; Jaiswal's resplendent century goes in vain for RR

Defining knocks: Jaiswal showcased his repertoire of strokes before David sent the Wankhede crowd into raptures with a blistering, match-winning cameo. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

It's not for nothing that Tim David is considered one of the most destructive batters in white ball cricket!

The Australian international stamped his class as he hammered three sixes off Jason Holder's final over to help Mumbai Indians (MI) spectacularly clinch a six-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the 1000th fixture of the Indian Premier League.

Chasing RR's big total of 212, made possible by Yashasvi Jaiswal's fine maiden century (124, 62b, 16x4, 8x6), MI needed 17 in the last over.

David, playing an unreal cameo of 45 off 14 balls (2x4, 5x6), present a fitting birthday gift to his skipper Rohit Sharma, who turned 36 on Sunday.

Coming in at a time when MI was in a tricky situation, having lost Suryakumar Yadav (55, 29b, 8x4, 2x6) and the target still 61 runs away, David banked on his experience to hammer five sixes in total and forge a match-winning unbeaten 62-run stand with Tilak Varma.

MI lost Rohit early and the home team looked helpless in the first 10 overs, with R. Ashwin tightening the noose.

However, Suryakumar turned the tide with a 20-run over off Impact Player Kuldeep Sen. While that set the tone, Royals did try to pull things back after an incredible catch by Sandeep Sharma sent Suryakumar packing.

Earlier, RR openers Jaiswal and Jos Buttler forged a 72-run stand as Jofra Archer blew hot and cold in his first spell. While 25 runs came through extras, and Buttler was off to a slow start, Jaiswal ensured the visitors were on course for a big total.

Though the seasoned Piyush Chawla earned a breakthrough by scalping Buttler and the Royals lost captain Sanju Samson and Devdutt Padikkal quickly, the left-handed Jaiswal stood firm to propel the visitors' score beyond 200.

Points table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans	8	6	2	12	0.638
Lucknow Super Giants	8	5	3	10	0.841
Rajasthan Royals	9	5	4	10	0.800
Chennai Super Kings	9	5	4	10	0.329
Punjab Kings	9	5	4	10	-0.447
Royal Challengers Bangalore	8	4	4	8	-0.139
Mumbai Indians	8	4	4	8	-0.502
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	6	6	-0.147
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	6	-0.577
Delhi Capitals	8	2	6	4	-0.898

* After the MI-RR match on April 30

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c & b Arshad 124 *(62b, 16x4, 8x6)*, Jos Buttler c sub (Ramandeep) b Chawla 18 *(19b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Sanju Samson c Tilak b Arshad 14 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal b Chawla 2 *(4b)*, Jason Holder c David b Archer 11 *(9b, 1x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Suryakumar b Arshad 8 *(9b, 1x6)*, Dhruv Jurel c Tilak b Meredith 2 *(3b)*, R. Ashwin (not out) 8 *(5b, 1x4)*, Trent Boult (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-7, w-16, nb-1): 25; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 212.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-72 (Buttler, 7.1 overs), 2-95 (Samson, 9.5), 3-103 (Padikkal, 10.5), 4-143 (Holder, 14.1), 5-159 (Hetmyer, 16.2), 6-168 (Jurel, 17.1), 7-205 (Jaiswal, 19.4).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Green 3-0-31-0, Archer 4-0-35-1, Meredith 4-0-51-1, Chawla 4-0-34-2, Kartikeya 2-0-14-0, Arshad 3-0-39-3.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma b Sandeep 3 *(5b)*, Ishan Kishan c Boult b Ashwin 28 *(23b, 4x4)*, Cameron Green c Boult b Ashwin 44 *(26b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Sandeep b Boult 55 *(29b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma (not out) 29 *(21b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Tim David (not out) 45 *(14b, 2x4, 5x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-7, nb-1): 10; Total (for four wkts. in 19.3 overs): 214.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Rohit, 1.6), 2-76 (Kishan, 8.2), 3-101 (Green, 10.4), 4-152 (Suryakumar, 15.4).

ROYALS BOWLING
Boult 4-0-43-1, Sandeep 4-0-35-1, Ashwin 4-0-27-2, Chahal 3-0-32-0, Holder 3.3-0-55-0, Kuldeep Sen **(Impact Player in place of Jurel)** 1-0-20-0.

Toss: Royals; **PoM:** *Mumbai Indians won by six wickets with three balls remaining.*

Next assignment

MI: May 3 vs. **PBKS**
Mohali, 7.30 p.m.

RR: May 5 vs. **GT**
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

LSG hopes to set right home record as it takes on RCB

Men in form: Stoinis and Badoni, right, played blazing knocks in the previous match and would look to keep the momentum. AFP

M.R. Praveen Chandran
LUCKNOW

The slow surface at the Ekana cricket stadium and the true wicket at the PCA stadium, where Lucknow Super Giants raked up the second-highest IPL score, are worlds apart.

The Super Giants have never really mastered the home conditions, losing three out of the four matches, and imploded while chasing a small target against Gujarat Titans last week.

The Super Giants will get another opportunity to set the home record right when they take on a stuttering Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday.

The playing surface will again be in focus and the key differentiator in the contest could be how well the batters adapt to the pitch to put up more than a par total.

Kyle Mayers, Marcus Stoinis, Ayush Badoni and Nicholas Pooran played blazing knocks as Lucknow piled up 257 for five against Punjab Kings.

But the low bounce here will not encourage such fearless batting and Super Giants' batters will have to temper their aggression and play wisely against the RCB bowlers.

Onus on batters

The top-heavy Royal Challengers Bangalore hasn't hit full stride this season. Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis have been consistent, but the lack of power-hitters in the lower order has hurt RCB and the side has contrived to lose matches it should have won.

RCB will be playing the first of its five consecutive away matches at the Ekana stadium and will find the conditions a bit more challenging. However, the longer boundaries at the stadium will offer some comfort for the RCB bowlers and the onus will be on the batters to come good.

TODAY'S MATCH

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS vs. ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 3
LSG 1 | RCB 2

PREVIOUS MEETING
LSG won by one wicket, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

INBRIEF

Zaman's third consecutive ton drives Pakistan to victory

Fakhar Zaman smashed a third consecutive century to guide Pakistan to a seven-wicket victory over New Zealand in the second One-Day International in Rawalpindi on Saturday. The left-handed opener hit 180 n.o. (144b, 6x6, 17x4) for his 10th ODI hundred. It followed his 117 in the first match and 101 against the same opponents in January. The win gives Pakistan a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

The scores: New Zealand 336/5 in 50 overs (Chad Bowes 51, Daryl Mitchell 129, Tom Latham 98; Haris Rauf 4/78) lost to Pakistan 337/3 in 48.2 overs (Fakhar Zaman 180 n.o., Babar Azam 65, Mohammad Rizwan 54 n.o.).

Bagnaia wins last-lap scrap to take Spanish MotoGP

Reigning World champion Francesco Bagnaia held off a frantic late counter-attack by Brad Binder on Sunday to win the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez de la Frontera and take the lead in the MotoGP standings. Bagnaia, on a Ducati, overtook South African Binder, on a KTM, with four laps to go and resisted the fightback. Australian Jack Miller was third on another KTM. The race was restarted after Fabio Quartararo, Miguel Oliveira and pre-race championship leader Marco Bezzecchi all crashed on the opening lap.

Mixed skeet gold for Mairaj and Ganemat at Cairo WC

Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon won the gold in mixed skeet as they outclassed Gabriela Rodriguez and Luis Oliveros of Mexico 6-0 in the shotgun World Cup in Cairo, Egypt, on Sunday. The Indian pair topped qualification with 143, the same as Mexico, and won the shoot-off 4-3 to get the No.1 rank before the gold match. The Indian duo established itself by winning in three rounds 8-5, 6-5, 5-4 with each round getting two points for the higher score. It was redemption time, especially for Mairaj as he had fared below par in the individual event.

"I was very confident from the start. We were confident of winning gold today. We are getting ready for the Paris Olympics," said Mairaj.

The results: Mixed skeet: 1. India (Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Ganemat Sekhon) 6 (143); 2. Mexico (Gabriela Rodriguez, Luis Oliveros) 0 (143); 3. Italy (Simona Scocchetti, Gabriele Rossetti) 6 (142); 4. Ukraine (Iryna Malovichko, Milola Milchev) 2 (142); 10. India-2 (Maheshwari Chauhan, Anant Jeet Singh Naruka) 140.

Gooch triumphs in Singapore for back-to-back LIV titles

Talor Gooch became the first golfer to win back-to-back LIV titles after he defeated Spain's Sergio Garcia on the first playoff hole at the LIV Singapore competition on Sunday. Gooch pocketed $4 million. The 31-year-old American had more reason to smile as his team RangeGoats earned $3 million for winning the team event.

Rohit advances in Bangalore Snooker Academy Open

Rohit Ravindran defeated Natasha Chetan 3-0 (57-32, 84-22, 102-12) in a round two match of the Bangalore Snooker Academy All India Open Championship being held in Bengaluru.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
ATP: Madrid Open, Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Ding Liren crowned king of World chess

Beats Russian rival Ian Nepomniachtchi in the fourth tie-breaker game to claim the title from Magnus Carlsen who opted not to defend the prize

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Sealing the deal: Nepomniachtchi, right, congratulates Ding Liren after the decisive tie-breaker. AP

Chess has a new World champion. Ding Liren of China ascended to the throne after defeating his Russian rival Ian Nepomniachtchi in the fourth tie-breaker game in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Sunday.

Ding, however, may not quite be able to claim that he is the undisputed World champion. For, this World championship cycle did not include Magnus Carlsen, the world's best player, by some margin, and winner of the last five World championships.

It was after Carlsen decided to withdraw from the World championship match, against Nepomniachtchi, that Ding got the opportunity. The Chinese had finished runner-up, behind the Russian, in the Candidates tournament last year.

When Carlsen withdrew – for lack of motivation – the world chess governing body decided to conduct a World title match between the top two players of the Candidates, Nepomniachtchi and Ding, ranked second and third respectively in the world. The match, which got underway in the Kazakhstan capital on April 9, turned out to be a nail-biting affair.

After the opening game was drawn, it was Nepomniachtchi who drew first blood, winning the second. Now Ding had to do the catching up. He would do that in remarkable fashion in the remaining games. He equalised for one last time in the 12th game and the next two were drawn.

With the score tied at 7-7, the tie-breakers (rapid) had to be played. The first three games were drawn and Ding won the fourth, to become China's first World chess champion in the open category.

Now China holds the World title among both men and women (Ju Wenjun).

Gritty Satwik-Chirag duo rallies to create history

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Dynamic duo! Chirag and Satwiksairaj with their reward. TWITTER/BAI_MEDIA

The star doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Sunday broke a 58-year-old drought, becoming the first Indians after Dinesh Khanna to be crowned champions, at the Badminton Asia Championships here on Sunday.

The 2022 World Championships bronze medallists scripted a sensational comeback to edge past the Malaysian combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi 21-16, 17-21, 19-21 in a nail-biting final that lasted 67 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag, who claimed the Swiss Open Super 300 title in Basel, showed tremendous grit as they never gave up after losing the first game and being 7-13 and 11-15 in the second and third game to secure the first gold for India in doubles.

Besides the Asia Championships crown, Satwik and Chirag have also won the 2022 Commonwealth Games and five career titles on the BWF World Tour.

India's previous best performance in men's doubles at the Asia Championships was a bronze-medal finish by Dipu Ghosh and Raman Ghosh in 1971. Khanna had won the singles gold medal in 1965 at Lucknow.

Later, the BAI president announced a reward of ₹20 lakh for the champion pair.

Qualifier Nagal wins Rome Challenger

All smiles: Sumit Nagal poses with the Challenger title. INSTAGRAM/TCGARDENROMA

INDIANS ABROAD

Sports Bureau

Qualifier Sumit Nagal capped a dream run as he beat Jesper de Jong of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Rome, Italy, on Sunday.

This was the third Challenger title for the 25-year-old Sumit following the ones in Bangalore (2017) and Buenos Aires (2019).

In seven matches, the 347th Sumit dropped only two sets, including one in the final qualifying round, as he expressed his versatile game on clay.

Sumit was ranked a career best 122 in 2020.

The champion collected €9,880 and 75 ATP points, while the runner-up won 50 points and €5,880.

In the ITF women's event in Nottingham, Britain, Rutuja Bhosale lost the doubles final in partnership with Arianne Hartono of the Netherlands. Rutuja had earlier reached the singles semifinals.

The results: **€73,000 Challenger, Rome, Italy**
Singles (final): Sumit Nagal bt Jesper de Jong (Ned) 6-3, 6-2.

$25,000 ITF women, Nottingham, Britain
Doubles (final): Emily Appleton & Lauryn John-Baptiste (GBR) bt Rutuja Bhosale & Arianne Hartono (Ned) 6-4, 6-3.

Perez beats Verstappen to the top spot in Baku

AZERBAIJAN GP

Associated Press
BAKU

Blessing in disguise: Perez made the most of the fortunately timed safety car, cruising to a straightforward win. GETTY IMAGES

Sergio Pérez took advantage of a fortunately timed safety car to beat his teammate Max Verstappen to the win in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday, adding it to the sprint he won the day before, as Red Bull kept up its winning start.

Verstappen started second behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc but swept past him on the long start-finish straight at the end of lap 3, the first lap on which drivers were allowed to use the DRS overtake assist system on the rear wing.

Pérez benefited when an accident by Nyck de Vries brought out the safety car after his AlphaTauri slid off the track with a broken suspension, just after Verstappen had pitted from the lead. The safety car meant Pérez and Leclerc lost less time on their stops and came out ahead of Verstappen.

After that, the two Red Bull drivers pulled away from the pack and cruised to a straightforward win.

The results: 1.Sergio Perez (Red Bull Racing), 1:32:42.436; 2. Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing) +2.137 seconds; 3. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), +21.217.

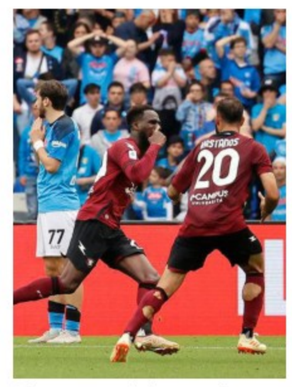
4. Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin), +22.024; 5. Carlos Sainz Jr (Ferrari), +45.491; 6. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes), +46.145; 7. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), +51.617; 8. George Russell (Mercedes), +1:14.240; 9. Lando Norris (McLaren), +1:20.376; 10. Yuki Tsunoda (Alphatauri), +1:23.862.

11. Oscar Piastri (McLaren), +1:26.501; 12. Alexander Albon (Williams), +1:28.623; 13. Kevin Magnussen (Haas), +1:29.729; 14. Pierre Gasly (Alpine), +1:31.332; 15. Esteban Ocon (Alpine) +1:37.794; 16. Logan Sargeant (Williams), +1:40.943; 17. Nico Hulkenberg (Haas) +1 lap; 18. Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo Racing) +1 lap.

DNF: Guanyu Zhou, Alfa Romeo Racing, 36; Nyck De Vries, Alphatauri, 9.

World Championship Standings: 1. Verstappen (Ned), 93 pts.; 2. Perez (Mex), 87; 3. Alonso (Esp), 60; 4. Hamilton (GBr), 48; 5. Sainz (Esp), 34; 6. Leclerc (Mon), 28; 7. Russell (GBr), 28; 8. Stroll (Can), 27; 9. Norris (GBr); 10. 10. Hulkenberg (Ger), 6; 11. Piastri (Aus), 4; 12. Bottas (Fin), 4; 13. Ocon (Fra), 4; 14. Gasly (Fra), 4; 15. Guanyu (Chn), 2; 16. Tsunoda (Jpn), 2; 17. Albon (Tha), 1; 18. Magnussen (Den), 1.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull, 180 pts.; 2. Aston Martin, 87; 3. Mercedes, 76; 4. Ferrari, 62; 5. McLaren, 14; 6. Alpine, 8; 7. Haas, 7; 8. Alfa Romeo Racing, 6; 9. Alphatauri, 2; 10. Williams, 1.



Dia, centre, celebrates after scoring Salernitana's equaliser against Napoli. REUTERS

Napoli's title surge halted by draw at Salernitana

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
NAPLES

Napoli missed the chance to win Serie A for the first time in 33 years on Sunday after being held to a 1-1 draw by Salernitana.

Runaway league leader Napoli needed to win to secure its third league crown with six games remaining in the season after Inter Milan beat closest challenger Lazio 3-1 earlier in the day.

Manchester City claimed top spot for the first time since February as Erling Haaland scored a record-equalling 34th Premier League goal in a 2-1 victory at Fulham on Sunday.

It moved him level on the Premier League single season scoring record of Alan Shearer and Andy Cole.

The results: Serie A: Inter Milan 3 (Martinez 77, 90, Gosens 83) bt Lazio 1 (Felipe Anderson 30); Napoli 1 (Olivera 62) drew with Salernitana 1 (Dia 84).

Premier League: Bournemouth 4 (Lerma 20, 24, Solanke 63, Semenyo 90) bt Leeds 1 (Bamford 32); Fulham 1 (Vinicius 15) lost to Manchester City 2 (Haaland 3-pen, Alvarez 36); Manchester United 1 (Fernandes 39) bt Aston Villa 0; Newcastle 3 (Wilson 54, 81, Walcott 79-og) bt Southampton 1 (Armstrong 41).

On Saturday: LaLiga: Real Madrid 4 (Benzema 5, 17, 42-pen, Rodrygo 47) bt Almeria 2 (Lazaro 45+1, Robertone 61); Barcelona 4 (Christensen 14, Lewandowski 36, Raphinha 39, Rodriguez 82-og) bt Real Betis 0.

Serie A: Roma 1 (Abraham 90+4) drew with AC Milan 1 (Saelemaekers 90+7).

Md. Ziyan excels in Union Gymkhana Belgaum's win

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Md. Ziyan Salewale scalped four wickets (4/27) as Union Gymkhana Belgaum defeated Akshay Sports by 28 runs in the Tiger Cup under-12 cricket tournament on Sunday.

The scores: Union Gymkhana Belgaum 168/8 in 30 overs (J. Pranav 49, K. Rushil 48, Harshith Inamdar 32, Atharv 3/21, Sashang Sangeeta Rao 3/29) bt Akshay Sports 140 in 27.1 overs (Chirag 38, Sashang Sangeeta Rao 35, Md. Ziyan Salemwale 4/27). Raghu CA 156 in 28.1 overs (Sevith 50, Suraj Sudhakar 23, Tanush Mishra) lost to Six Cricket Academy 159/1 in 15.1 overs (Shaurya A.Gowda 74, Ahaan Dash 37).

Eldhose Paul has 17m on his mind as he heads for the Doha Diamond League

ATHLETICS

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

Eldhose Paul. REUTERS

He is the Commonwealth Games champion, the man who surprised many as he grabbed the gold in Birmingham. But triple jumper Eldhose Paul is yet to cross the 17m barrier under legal wind conditions and that is something he would like to achieve as soon as possible.

The Birmingham gold last August came with a wind-assisted (+3.1) 17.03m and hence will not be counted as personal best. His best under legal wind conditions was the 16.99m at the Federation Cup in Malappuram in April 2022.

Eldhose will get a chance to cross 17m when he competes in the Diamond League opener in Doha on May 5.

"That will be my first Diamond League, I will be leaving on May 3," Eldhose told *The Hindu* from Bengaluru on Sunday. "I have not reached full peak but I expect a decent performance. The workouts are aimed at the Asian Games and World Championships, so I plan to give the maximum as per my current workouts. I'm looking at 17-plus, if the conditions there are ideal, that could come.

"But I will not be going all out, we are on load workout. if we go all out, there are chances of getting injured. I will try to do the optimum as per my current workout level."

Though the full list of triple jumpers for the Doha Diamond League is not yet out, the competition will see some of the world's best. And that will be a golden chance for the youngster. "If I do well, there will be more such big openings," he said.

Intense competition

The 26-year-old from Kerala who was ninth at the World Championships in the US last July, feels the competition for places in the Indian team for this year's Asian Games will be intense.

"Four of us (Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chitravel and Karthik Unnikrishnan are the others) are almost at the same level. And unlike the Commonwealth Games, we can have only two athletes in the Asian Games team, so it will not be easy," said Eldhose.